

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP ISSUE

19th November, 1983 33p

Shoot!

SAMMY LEE

'My world caved in'

Captured

BRYAN

ROBSON

on his day off



Graham Rix

Exclusive

WHERE HE WENT WRONG

EURO HEROES WALES

-colour tribute

Kevin Keegan's Newcastle future

EUROPEAN BATTLE D-DAY



JOCK STEIN

Pin-up boy McStay

IN an ideal world I would like League matches to be postponed the Saturday before an international — but the players wouldn't have it!

We last managed to get a free Saturday a few years ago, but they made it clear they would prefer to play on a Saturday to keep up the continuity.

Realistically, there is little room for more than one blank Saturday during a season, and I accept that a player's loyalty lies with his club.

But things are going quite well with us at the moment, despite the fact that we are out of next year's European Championship Finals in Paris.

Celtic's Paul McStay, for example, has truly arrived after only two internationals. After being nursed by John Robertson in his first two games, he's now ready for anything.

Richard Gough, of Dundee United, is another one with a bright future ahead. After only nine games for Scotland he has firmly established his place at right-back.

Charlie Nicholas? His record of three goals in seven games is very good. But he can do more... even though he plays in the toughest position of the lot.

And Kenny Dalglish... he seems to be a young man again! He has played exceptionally well in both our games this season, and could become the first Scot to reach 100 caps if he can keep up his high level of performance.

Wednesday, November 16, is a vital day for the four Home countries and the Republic of Ireland.

On that night either they hopefully take a step nearer the European Championship Finals in Paris next year or begin the reshaping of their sides.

For the men in the 'hot seat' — the

managers — the build-up for each international match is an occasion fraught with nightmares of injury and loss of form to key players.

Shoot has been talking to them and hearing first-hand how plans and preparations are laid for games on which so much depends... for the players, the fans and the managers.

BOBBY ROBSON

Some England players don't 'mix it'

THE biggest difference between managing an England side and a club side is that you only have the players together for a short time before a game.

This makes it particularly difficult for a national manager to put across his ideas.

That is why I am a great believer in cancelling domestic matches before a crucial international. We did that before the game against Hungary in Budapest and the team benefited a great deal.

We were able to come together as a squad and work out set movements and in the light of our performance it was completely justified.

Obviously managing England there is a hell of a lot of pressure on me. If we get a bad result, as was the case against Denmark recently, there is a public inquest that can last for weeks.

At club level this does not happen. A bad result can be corrected within

days. Take Liverpool. They had the shock of losing 1-0 at home to Sunderland, but bounced back four days later by beating Brentford 4-1 in the Milk Cup, then West Ham in the League.

An international side has to wait weeks or even months to put things right.

Players obviously find the demands of playing in an international different. But my advice to someone making his debut for England is always the same.

I tell him he has been picked on the strength of his club form and all he has to do is go out and reproduce it.

Unfortunately, it is not always as simple as that.

Wrong

For some reason there are players who think because they are playing for England they don't need to 'mix it' as they would do in a League match. But they couldn't be more wrong.

There are those who say I should give a new player at least a run of five or six games in the side, but what sort of motivation is that to a player to do well, if you tell him he will be in next time, even if he doesn't perform?

One thing I would like to introduce is a de-briefing session the morning after a game, so that I could discuss performances with players. Unfortunately club commitments prevent this.



STATIONS!

FOR THE BIG FIVE MANAGERS



MIKE ENGLAND

RUSH-ing to France

QUALITY and not quantity, has given us Britain's best chance of representation in France next year.

A win in Bulgaria is obviously our target, but the real crunch game for us is against Yugoslavia at home in December. They are our rivals in the Group, and if we beat them we will be through.

A small squad does have its disadvantages. There is more likelihood of a few injuries incurred on the Saturday before affecting us.

But we have many players of the highest quality.

Ian Rush is world-class, and he has tremendous support from Robbie James, Mickey Thomas and Brian Flynn in midfield.

We have many good players coming through as well. Rush, don't forget, has only just turned 22, and Cardiff's Nigel Vaughan, 24, has had two outstanding games for us this season. Jeff Hopkins of Fulham and Watford's Kenny Jackett are even younger.

I have introduced only one new cap this season, Lincoln's David



Felgate, who played in goal for the second-half against Rumania last month and did extremely well.

There are unlikely to be any new faces for a while now, though, as we go into a critical period for Welsh international football.



EOIN HAND

It's all pressure

WE have the same selection problems as Wales. It is often extremely difficult to get players released, especially those with clubs in England.

I am aware of the clubs' difficulties. Sometimes the dates for internationals clash with their own plans — but the situation can be very frustrating from our point of view.

For example, of the 22 men selected for our squad for the match against Spain in Dublin last April, eight dropped out in the preceding week, which caused us a lot of trouble.

Every player is different. Liam Brady made his international debut in 1974, against Russia, and was superb in our 3-0 win.

In contrast, Jim McDonagh had a dreadful debut in our 3-1 defeat by Wales in 1981 at Dublin. I stuck with him and he's been a tremendous 'keeper since then.

There are tremendous pressures in managing a national side. Club managers inevitably have a lot more time to iron out flaws in their teams than we do. It's not as if we're together every week.

If Eire lose one match it can set us back a lot, and even if you win you cannot please everyone. The attention from the media is incredible.



BILLY BINGHAM

Secrets of the job

I THINK the biggest boost to national managers has been the postponement of First Division fixtures on the Saturday before an international.

I believe in working with a very small squad, and I used to bite my nails down to the quick the weekend before matches, worrying that a key player had aggravated an injury.

England and Scotland can cope because they have a large selection of experienced caps, but I may have to throw in a relative newcomer to the big match atmosphere.

To counter this, I try to work with 17 or 18 players who can fill a variety of roles. A left-back who can play in the centre, a midfielder who can play up front, a winger who can play on the left or right flank.

One of the most important tasks of a manager is to relax a nervous newcomer. I try to talk about the good things in a player's game, and I never build up the opponents' strengths.

But I don't think a new cap should be put into hectic situations. For instance, I picked Paul Ramsey for the match against Austria. He did well, but I did not pick him against Turkey. There was too much tension.

SHOOT view!

ROBSON DESERVES MORE SUPPORT

Yet another absurdly improbable result has opened the door to England's possible involvement in the 1984 European Championship next summer.

It has all come about because of Hungary's amazing win against the Danes.

The result in Budapest has injected a climax to Group Three that England could never have anticipated after crashing to Denmark at Wembley.

England's fortunes now depend on the result of De-

nmark's game in Greece and their own performance against Luxembourg.

Whatever the outcome of yet another crucial day for English football, their unbelievable luck in finding it still possible to go to France should not disguise the problems Bobby Robson faces.

His most nagging difficulty is the non-availability of his best players through injury.

He hardly ever picks his best team.

The decision to postpone

League games on the Saturday before the Hungary game was brave and enlightened.

It meant that Robson could spend more time with his squad and that most would be fit.

It was a small, but significant breakthrough for Robson in his efforts to restore pride to the national team.

A winning England is vital to the game's prosperity — and no longer should the national team have to rely on Houdini escape acts to qualify for World Cups and European Championships.

**STAR
WRITER**

BRYAN ROBSON



Nothing could be further from the truth. The England squad is as fired up for this one as we were at the start of the qualifying games.

Our future in this competition is largely out of our hands but our pride is at stake in these anxious times of not knowing whether we will make France next summer.

The enthusiasm generated by our solid, all round performance in

beating Hungary has made us determined to carry on the good work against Luxembourg.

We can't promise to score nine goals, but we will have a good try.

There is still the hope that the Danes will fold up in Greece, where I can promise them that the atmosphere will be so hostile that they might not produce the attacking team-work that has been

a feature of their performances.

Whatever happens, there is good reason to believe that Bobby Robson has made progress in his running of England affairs for more than a year.

Let's not make the mistake of believing that it doesn't matter if we fail to reach the European Championship. It matters a lot, and the prospect of sitting at home watching Denmark, France and West Germany battling it out hurts.

Several players have established themselves at England level over the past few months and it is important their skills are put on display on the great football stadia, starting in France, and moving to the World Cup in 1986.

Progress

Trevor Francis and Peter Shilton need that sort of exposure and the progress made by Glenn Hoddle, Terry Butcher, Sammy Lee and Gary Mabbutt deserves a wider audience as they grow in stature at England level.

Glenn's form against Scotland and Hungary confirms my belief that, at last, he has broken the barrier that seemed to damage his England chances.

The more games England play together, the greater the understanding the players are building.

The spirit has always been there, but now we are developing the team work that is so essential to winning international matches.

I'll keep you posted on the Luxembourg game. Who knows, we might still make it to France.

Bryan Robson

THE last time we played Luxembourg on a memorable night at Wembley I was confident we could go on to reach the European Championship Finals in France next summer.

But my dreams have turned a bit sour, for after dishing out that 9-0 hiding, with Luther Blissett scoring a hat-trick on his full debut, England have lost their way, no longer controlling their own destiny in the competition.

So you might think that we approach this game in Luxembourg with a sense of disappointment and a feeling that all is lost.

England fired up —and still hoping



Tony Woodcock heads the third of England's nine goals against Luxembourg last December. But I can't promise it will be so easy this time.

WALES could virtually secure their qualification for next summer's European Championship Finals in France if they beat Bulgaria in Sofia Wednesday night.

Mike England takes his side to the chilling, unfriendly corner of Eastern Europe knowing that Wales can march proudly into those Finals, perhaps as Britain's only representatives, if they take maximum points off the Bulgarians.

Of course, Wales could do it another way, earning a point in Sofia and then picking up another point when Yugoslavia visit Wales next month for the final match of Group Three.

But Fulham striker Gordon Davies, hoping to be one of the men helping Wales to the Finals, challenges his manager: "Let's be bold and snatch that place here and now."



Mickey Thomas heads for goal as Wales beat Rumania 5-0 in a recent friendly.

"But I'd recommend him to go for the win.

"However, I could well understand if he was more cautious. It might be that the other results will work out to our benefit so that we might have qualified already by the time the Yugoslavs come to Wales next month.

"Either way, it is a big thing for the nation. It would be a great thrill to reach the Finals and to be ranked among the top eight in Europe, especially after the disappointment of missing out on the World Cup Finals."

Davies stands to benefit if Mike England does decide to be adventurous. Although he played only one striker, Ian Rush, in Norway to secure a point, Davies could be pushed in alongside the Liverpool man to add to the strike force.

And the Fulham striker, who has started finding the net again after a disappointing start to the League season, says: "I'd love to get back very quickly. This is no time to be out of the Welsh side.

"If the boss chooses to keep things tight, I might struggle to get back because he may keep the same formation he used in Norway."

Davies adds: "I desperately

PROUD WALES HEAD FOR FINALS

Davies, axed for both the European Championship qualifier in Norway back in September and the friendly with Rumania at Wrexham in October, says: "It could all depend on whether the boss is bold enough to go all out for that win in Sofia.

"My advice? Well, it's his decision of course and whatever I say probably won't influence him.

want to play for Wales again but it must be encouraging to see several good players only in the squad. It proves we have the resources you need outside the basic 11 players in the side.

"I know that unless I am scoring and doing well for my club, I may not get the chance at international level. So the incentive is there in every game I play."

...Southall the hero

GOALKEEPER Neville Southall holds the key to Wales' Championship chances. If he can turn in the same clean sheet after 90 minutes against Bulgaria, that he has achieved in three other qualifying ties, then Wales will be on their way to France.

Home and away against Norway and home against Bulgaria, Southall has performed brilliantly . . . not a goal against him.

All four against Wales came when Dai Davies faced Yugoslavia in Titograd — he still performed defiantly in his final international and Wales scored four in reply — but Everton's Southall now has a remarkable record.

"A great deal of the credit for our defensive record is just as much due to the players around me," he states. "We have a terrific understanding at

the back, helped, of course, by having my Goodison Park team-mate Kevin Ratcliffe in central defence."

Southall thrives on international football. It was two amazing saves to check the Norwegians in Oslo last September that won him an Everton recall after starting the season in the Central League side. Manager Howard Kendall then restored him to the First Division — much to Southall's relief.

In fact, it was halfway through October before Southall experienced the task of retrieving the ball from the back of his net. Until Luton's Paul Walsh scored the only goal to give his side victory at Goodison, Southall had played four reserve games, one First Division match, one Milk Cup tie, one European Championship match and half the Rumania game without conceding a goal — 11 and a quarter hours!



WEST Germany's emphatic and stylish 3-0 win over Austria was the worst possible result for Northern Ireland manager Billy Bingham.

Bingham takes his team to Hamburg for their last Group Six match with the rare distinction of seeking a 'double' over the reigning European Champions.

And the Ulstermen know that only victory will keep alive their fading hopes of qualifying.

But the Germans have come good at just the right time after a period of transition that at one stage threatened to end the reign of manager Jupp Derwall.

Their problems stemmed from the World Cup where, despite finishing runners-up to Italy, West Germany played undistinguished football.

Irish fear dangerman Völler

Northern Ireland sparked the real problems, however, when they beat the Germans 1-0 at Windsor Park in their opening qualifying game last November. The winning goal, by young Ian Stewart, rocked German football.

Quality players such as Paul Breitner, Horst Hrubesch, Felix Magath and Manny Kaltz were unavailable and Pierre Littbarski was out of form. Uli Stielike and Karl-

Heinz Rummenigge were injured and Bernd Schuster chose absolutely the wrong time to throw one of his characteristic tantrums.

Derwall brought in new players — Gerd Strack of Cologne and Klaus Augenthaler of Bayern Munich bolstered the defence; Wolfgang Rolff (Hamburg) came into midfield and the strike-force was reshaped with the Werder Bremen pair, Rudi Völler and Norbert Meier.

The initial results were solid rather than spectacular — a 0-0 draw in Austria, 2-1 and 3-0 wins in Albania and Turkey respectively.

But when they lost 1-0 in Portugal and drew 1-1 in Hungary in friendly games, the fans and the press howled for Derwall's head.

Just in time, the nagging injuries that decimated his squad began to clear and Schuster, that troubled genius, began to produce the form that makes opponents blanch.

The 'make-or-break' game against Austria was a thriller with West Germany looking powerful, assured and razor-sharp. Völler — surely a fixture at centre-forward — scored twice and Rummenigge got the third. Since then, they've hammered Turkey 5-1 to go top of Group Six.

Derwall knows that the Irishmen have a worrying reputation for doing the impossible — such as beating host nation Spain 1-0 in the last World Cup!

But the real cost of that disappointing 1-0 defeat in Turkey on October 12 looks likely to be felt during a testing night in Hamburg in the face of the new-look West Germany.

Völler finds the net as West Germany beat Austria 3-0 last month.



ALTHOUGH his contract does not end until June 30, 1984, Eire's last game in the European Championship against Malta could also be Eoin Hand's last in charge of the national team.

Eoin's job has come under pressure following Eire's first competitive home defeat in 11 years last month. After leading Holland 2-0 at half-time, Eire collapsed in the second-half and eventually lost 3-2.

Hand took over as manager in May, 1980, following the resignation of Johnny Giles. And although he has been very popular with both players and media, he has failed to deliver the goods — that is getting Eire into the Final stages of the World Cup or the European Championship.

The Eire boss told *Shoot*: "Obviously a manager who does not qualify for something is never totally satisfied. However, I feel that I have done reasonably well over the past three and a half years.

"Because we have never qualified for the Final of a major tournament we tend to be rated third when Groups are being formed. Despite that, we only failed on goal difference to make last year's World Cup Finals in Spain.

relationship with the players, their club managers and everybody concerned. But the final decision rests with my employers, the Football Association of Ireland.

"There will be changes for next week's game, but they would have been made regardless of the result against Holland. Anybody who can play a part in helping us qualify for

Eire could also have a new skipper, as the weight of captaincy seems to be having the same effect on Tony Grealish as it did on Liam Brady.

Eire beat Malta in Valletta last March with a lone Frank Stapleton goal. The scoreline should be a bit higher at Dalymount Park next week.

HAND'S LAST STAND?

the next World Cup will be given a chance."

One of the changes will probably see the return of Arsenal's David O'Leary to the defence after being left out for the last two games.



Frank Stapleton is denied by the Maltese 'keeper in Valletta.



STAR WRITER



KENNY DALGLISH

Arthur Albiston did well in the 1-1 draw with Belgium.



If we had been neck-and-neck with Belgium for a place in France then I doubt if the manager would have introduced as many new caps as he has since realising that our cause was lost.

Celtic's Paul McStay has come in and done well. Davie Dodds, who scored against Uruguay in our 2-0 Hampden Park victory, and Richard Gough, both of Dundee United, are now beginning to feel part of the international set-up. Neil Simpson of Aberdeen is settling into the squad and Arthur Albiston, who had one cap already,

Pride, passion and progress are the key words that sum up Scotland's approach to our final European Championship qualifying tie, away to East Germany.

Belgium have won Group One and will compete in the Finals in France next June.

But we go behind the Iron Curtain with a very special mission — seeking a convincing victory to restore a bit of lost pride. To achieve that we must produce a performance with passion and a victory will add to the already invaluable experience our 'new boys' are acquiring.

They do say that every cloud has a silver lining. So, while we are bitterly disappointed to miss out in the European Championship, our situation has given manager Jock Stein the opportunity to blood new players and give others another chance to establish their claims to a regular place.

It's a new-look Scotland

has also shown great consistency against Uruguay and Belgium.

The draw for the 1986 World Cup is on the horizon and there is no doubt that every game we play is part of Jock Stein's preparation for the most important international competition of them all.



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Scotland has a magnificent record in the World Cup. When you consider the size of our country and then remember that we have battled through three lots of qualifying competitions to reach three consecutive Final stages, then I reckon those who prefer to criticise our actual performance during those Finals ought to think again.

We have given our all and just missed out three times — unbeaten in 1974, punished for only drawing 1-1 with Iran in 1978 and locked in battle with Brazil and Russia last year.

But 1986 gives us the chance to make it a fantastic four times in a row and I sincerely hope I am still part of Jock Stein's plans when the new campaign begins.

With all this in mind we set off for East Germany knowing we are in for one hell of a game.

They recently parted company with their manager, Rudolf Krause ... and promptly hammered the unpredictable Swiss 3-0!

It is all too easy to look at this fixture as simply our last in Group One and of little real consequence. But East Germany are rebuilding and preparing for the very same campaign as Scotland — we have the World Cup coming up and now is the time to get things right!

Kenny Dalglish

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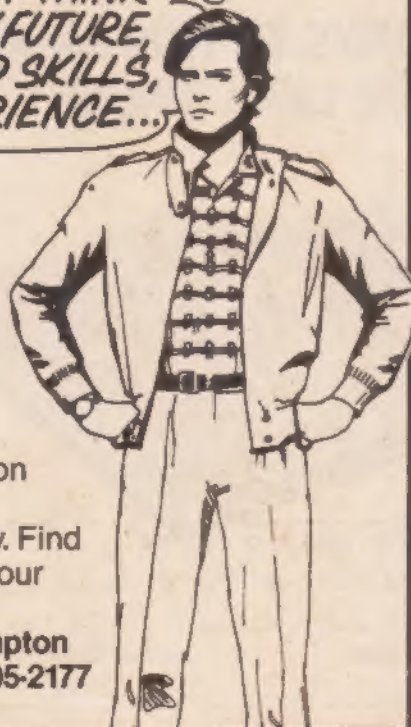


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Sammy's arrived - at last

WHAT'S the difference between Sammy Lee and the ten players around him in the Liverpool team?

Answer — apart from the fact that at 5 feet 7 inches he's shorter than all the others — Lee is the only one who has come through the Anfield ranks.

It's an extraordinary fact considering that people in football always talk about the Liverpool way, about players being groomed in the club's style of play.

Surely that should mean more players going from apprenticeship to a first team shirt, seeing that newcomers have to learn the system. "Not really," says Lee, "because the players Liverpool have bought have mostly been quick learners."

Lee can't really explain it. "I was too busy worrying how I was

going to get into the first team to bother about other people.

"But at Liverpool, the coaches don't try to force a boy through. They let him develop in his own way and if he's good enough, he'll get his chance.

"Once you get into the team it's then a question of making sure you play well enough to stay there. I still don't think of myself as a regular. You've got to play 500 games before you can think that way at Liverpool.

"But I'm learning to enjoy it more now. When you first come into the team as a young player, it's hard to relax. You are so determined to do well and prove yourself.

HOW THEY STAND

GROUP ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	5	4	1	0	11	5	9
Scotland	5	1	2	2	7	8	4
Switzerland	5	1	2	2	4	8	4
East Germany	5	1	1	3	5	6	3

Remaining fixtures: November 9 Switzerland v Belgium; November 16 East Germany v Scotland

GROUP THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Denmark	7	5	1	1	15	5	11
England	7	4	2	1	19	3	10
Hungary	7	3	0	4	16	15	6
Greece	5	2	1	2	5	6	5
Luxembourg	6	0	0	6	5	31	0

Remaining fixtures: November 16 Greece v Denmark, Luxembourg v England; December 3 Greece v Hungary; December 14 Greece v Luxembourg.

GROUP SIX

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Germany	6	4	1	1	13	3	9
Austria	7	4	1	2	14	7	9
N. Ireland	7	4	1	2	7	5	9
Turkey	7	2	1	4	5	15	5
Albania	7	0	2	5	3	12	2

Remaining fixtures: November 16 Netherlands v Spain, Republic of Ireland v Malta; December 17 Netherlands v Malta; December 21 Spain v Malta.

GROUP SEVEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	6	5	1	0	11	5	11
Netherlands	6	4	1	1	15	5	9
Rep of Ireland	7	3	1	3	12	10	7
Iceland	6	1	1	4	3	13	3
Malta	5	1	0	4	4	12	2

Remaining fixtures: November 16 Netherlands v Spain, Republic of Ireland v Malta; December 17 Netherlands v Malta; December 21 Spain v Malta.



Lee was grateful to repay Bobby Robson's faith in him by helping England to a 3-0 win in Hungary last month (left).



qualifying matches — in Luxembourg next Wednesday. And they know that victory there will be meaningless if Denmark win in Greece hours earlier.

"It's annoying that our fate is now out of our hands but we've still got a chance. We'll be expected to go out to Luxembourg and pick up the points without any trouble but it's not as simple as that.

"You still have to go out and do the job in hand and personally, I don't think they'll be that easy to beat on their own turf."

Back home, Lee is hoping to help Liverpool to a third successive League title. If they do, they'll be the first side since the 1930s to achieve a hat-trick.

In true Liverpool cautious style, though, he says: "The title race is a marathon and so far, we've only completed a few short stages.

"We would expect to be thereabouts at the end but it's going to be very hard this term. Of the other teams challenging, Manchester United must be the team everyone looks at.

"Southampton are also playing very well, though the team I think are a big danger are Spurs. They seem to be running into top form again.

"We've carried on in the same fashion at Liverpool under new manager Joe Fagan. He's cracked the whip in the past so it's not been that different and now we've all got used to calling him Boss. As far as we're concerned it's business as usual this season."

my own personal standards, I've got to admit I had a poor game."

Lee, like most of the other players, was given a chance to redeem himself against Hungary and was much more like his normal self in an impressive 3-0 win.

He believes that it was manager Bobby Robson's decision to give the players a second chance that was crucial.

"All the players who played against Denmark knew that they'd let themselves down. So we were all determined not to let it happen again.

"People have said that Hungary were a very poor side but the truth is that we didn't let them play. We dominated them from the start."

England now have one game left in the European Championship

"Now I've come to terms with things and I enjoy my football a lot more."

Lee, of course, has also become an England regular over the past year, finding his midfield slot on the right side, just as it is at Anfield.

"It's not been easy being an England player this season. Everything was going well for me until the game against Denmark at Wembley.

"To be honest, I thought the whole world had caved in after that defeat. And then to be dragged off by the manager in the second-half was very disappointing.

"I don't know whether I deserved to be substituted but by

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Shoot! BRAUN



Lee's marathon trips

LEE Marshall, a 13-year-old lad from Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, thinks nothing of making a round trip of more than 100 miles to see Aston Villa in action at Villa Park.

"My son has been an avid supporter of The Villans since the age of eight," says his mother and nominator, Margaret.

"To subsidise his trips to the Midlands, Lee does two paper

rounds a day. He gets up at 6.00am to do his morning round.

"As I often go to Villa with my son, we study the League fixtures closely at the beginning of the season to work out which games we can afford to see.

"Mind you, I do not see as many as Lee. He often travels alone to watch Tony Barton's side in action.

"For instance, he watched Villa at home in the opening two games of the season against West Bromwich Albion and Sunderland and then travelled by coach to Queens Park Rangers at Loftus Road.

'Stars'

"His proudest moment was when he met Villa stars Gordon Cowans, Peter Withe and Tony Morley.

"The first game he missed this season was the Milk Cup Second Round match against Portsmouth at Fratton Park.

"The only reason he wasn't there was because he had to catch up on his schoolwork.

"In these days of declining attendances, Lee is proud to say that there is no way you could call him an armchair supporter."

We totally agree and he thoroughly deserves his award as Fan of the Week.

Peter Withe and Tony Morley, two of Lee's Aston Villa heroes.



DO you know a super fan like Lee Marshall? Then write to Shoot telling why he or she deserves to be rewarded for their loyalty to football.

In collaboration with Braun Electric (UK) Ltd, one of the leading manufacturers of electric shavers, Shoot is searching for the Fan of the Year 1984.

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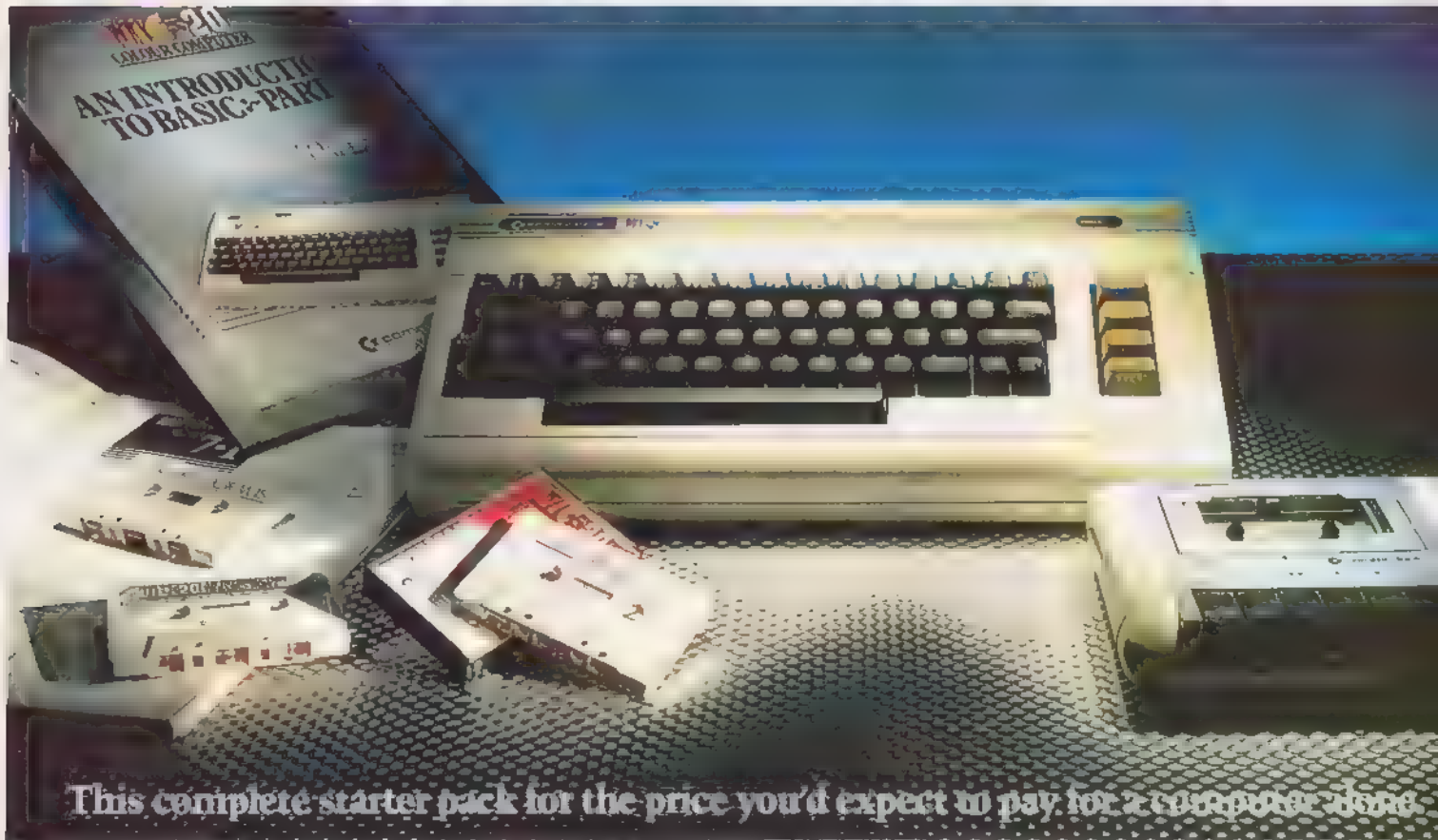
Later in the season our Fans of the Week will be studied by a panel of football personalities — including Bobby Robson, Bryan Robson, Trevor Brooking, Charlie Nicholas,

Mike Flanagan, Steve Perryman and Ray Clemence — who will select the Fan of the Year.

All Fans of the Week, along with their nominators, will be invited to an expenses-paid luncheon at the Cafe Royal in London, where Frank Bough, the famous TV presenter, will again host the ceremony to honour the FAN OF THE YEAR.

In addition to a superb trophy, the winner and his or her companion will be offered free trips to Paris for the Final of the 1984 European Championship. Want to join the hunt for the FAN OF THE YEAR? Then send your nomination straight away to Shoot/Braun Fan of the Year, Shoot Magazine, IPC Magazines Ltd, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS, enclosing his or her photograph and shoe size.

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Shoot goes behind the scenes with a soccer superstar . . .



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The white shirt of England, bearing the number 9, is one of sport's most treasured garments, and has been worn by some of the greatest players in soccer history.

THE SHOOT INTERVIEW

GRAHEM Rix of Arsenal and England is one of English football's truly gifted players. But the 26-year-old Yorkshireman, with a wealth of international caps and medals to his name, believes he has reached a crossroads in his career.

Out of the England squad after making 10 appearances since his debut against Norway in 1980, Rix desperately wants to prove that he has overcome the "paralysis" that he believes strikes at so many players when they pull on an England shirt.

Shoot spoke to the Arsenal captain at their London Colney training ground in Hertfordshire.

ENGLAND SCARES ME STIFF

SHOOT: Some of England's most talented players do not reproduce their club form when they play for their country. Why?

RIX: Fear! The awful nagging fear that mistakes may cost you an international career before it even gets off the ground. I have played in games for England when I have grafted and given 100 per cent. But I have not attempted things with the ball that I would for Arsenal. I have not attacked defenders, tried the spectacular and surprise ball. I've opted for the short, safe pass, the ball to an established England player nearby.

SHOOT: Is this fear a factor that affects players other than yourself?

RIX: Definitely. I've seen Glenn Hoddle — a marvellous footballer — freeze for England. I've talked to him after games and he's agreed that he could not relax and let his hair down as he does for Spurs. Always you feel that you must not sell your country short so you sweat and battle. But you also become overcautious about attempting those things that can win games, just in case you are the reason the whole world is on the national team's back next day, in the Press and on television.

SHOOT: Were you surprised when Bobby Robson dropped you from the squad?

RIX: Disappointed, yes. But surprised? No! It's mainly my own fault. I played in five World Cup

games in Spain without pulling up any trees. I did not play badly, but it is frustrating to know that I have only once shown England what I can do.

SHOOT: In the World Cup?

RIX: No, when I came on as sub against Holland at Wembley. It was just before the World Cup and I thought my chances of making the final 22 were very slim. So I threw caution to the wind and just played. I know I played well and I know it was about the only time England fans have seen the real Graham Rix.

SHOOT: What makes you think you can produce that form if you get back in the squad?

RIX: I've come to realise some harsh facts of life in the past year. When I first joined Arsenal and broke into the side it was a team that should have won the League Championship. We didn't, but it

Graham Rix

was F.A. Cup Finals and Europe every season and I really did not appreciate it all. But now those Finals have stopped and we have a new side. I have to buckle down to help lead the side back to those standards. I must produce the goods and do myself justice and I know that I can do the same for England if I get another chance. I cannot afford to waste a moment at this stage of my career.

SHOOT: How are the two situations related?

RIX: I am captain of Arsenal and no longer enjoying the comparable safety of a youngster, playing in a side with Liam Brady, Frank Stapleton, Sammy Nelson and Pat Rice. I am one of the senior lads now and while I enjoy the job — I am a talker and an encourager by nature — I am very aware that I must also provide the service for Charlie Nicholas and Tony Woodcock. They rely on good service at this level and it's mainly down to me. I believe in my ability and I have come to realise why my England games have lacked something. That paralysis is gone and I would love another chance to show what I can do.

SHOOT: Going back to your roots, which club did you want to play for when you were at school?

RIX: Leeds United. They had a fantastic team in the late 60's and early 70's, and although they took a lot of stick, they fielded teams containing world class players in most positions. But when I came down for a trial at Highbury I saw a new world. I did have a trial at Eiland Road, but there was no comparison. It had to be Arsenal.

SHOOT: What rates as the biggest disappointment in your career?

RIX: When Terry Neill told me he was leaving me out of the F.A. Cup Final side to play Ipswich in 1978. I'd made 37 League appearances and scored a goal in the Semi-Final so I was really choked to tears.

SHOOT: And the moment you will never forget?

RIX: When Paul Vaessen scored our goal against Juventus in Turin in the 1980 European Cup-Winners' Cup Semi-Final. We'd drawn 1-1 in the first-leg at Highbury and nobody gave us a chance. But Paul, whose career was cruelly ended at 23 through injury, gave us a fantastic last-minute win.

SHOOT: What about your ambitions on the domestic front?

RIX: I have played in an Arsenal team that should have been Champions of England. I believe we have the players now to emerge as a team with the same capability. I want to win the Championship very badly. Our supporters deserve it and our club demands it.



**STAR
WRITER**

JOHN McCLELLAND



JOHN Greig became the 51st Premier Division managerial change in eight years when he recently quit Rangers.

Behind that cold, stark statement is a story that saddens me.

It will be difficult to imagine Ibrox without John Greig. But pressure and strain eventually told on this loyal servant.

He couldn't take it any more when his family were suffering and he had to make the toughest decision of his life.

I was shattered when John took me aside on the Friday morning before we were due to meet St. Mirren at Love Street.

He dropped his bombshell news and then wished me all the best for the future. He went round every single player at Ibrox, thanked them for their efforts and gave

them his best wishes.

It was a very emotional scene, but the man was big enough to carry out such a daunting task.

I think the players' reaction was mirrored 24 hours later in the 3-0 scoreline in favour of St. Mirren.

I believe Mr Greig decided to go after the demonstration by hundreds of fans after we had lost 2-1 to Motherwell at Ibrox the previous week.

The jeers and taunts clearly hurt

SHATTERED!

The fans made Greig the scapegoat

the man and he felt there was no option but to make the supreme sacrifice and stand aside for someone else to bring better fortunes to the club.

Imagine how he felt. For 22 years he had been arriving every morning at Ibrox, first as a player and then as manager since 1978.

But he still had to make the decision that brought down the final curtain on his career as a Ranger.

Actually, I am still a bit shocked at the news. I got to know John Greig very well in the three years I have been at Ibrox since he brought me from Mansfield.

He made me captain of his team and I will always treasure that honour.

Why did he have to go?

Although he led the club to two victories in the Scottish Cup and also brought the League Cup to Ibrox twice in five years, it still wasn't enough.

The fans demanded the Premier Division title ... and that was the one award that was to escape him as Rangers manager.

When John left we were seven points behind Dundee United and obviously he felt it was time for a fresh man to take charge of the team.

It must have been a heart-breaking decision.

He accepted the stick that came his way. He told the players: "The fans pay good money to watch us so they are entitled to voice their opinions. That is their right. I can take the brunt of things just you worry about getting results on the pitch."

But eventually even a strong,

courageous personality such as John Greig had to wilt under the constant pressure and abuse.

He should not take all the criticism. The players deserved to be in the firing line, too, but he saw it as part of his job to protect us.

However, we realise we must accept responsibility for what has gone wrong this season. We have lost games we should have won and you can't blame the boss for that.

No one is dodging the issue. It is just so sad that the fans made John Greig the scapegoat. He didn't deserve that sort of treatment.

Fan

They urgently demand success for the club, but they should also remember that Rangers didn't have a bigger fan than John Greig.

He gave everything he had for this club, as a player and a manager. He didn't fail for lack of working at his job. People have said he failed because he didn't adopt a stricter attitude with his players.

I don't know about that. John Greig treated us as adults and we respected him for that.

Possibly another approach would have made a difference, but who knows? It's just speculation now.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish John Greig all the very best in the future wherever it may take him.

John McClelland



Even beating Porto in the first-leg of our UEFA Cup tie (above) did not spare John Greig from the crowd's criticisms.

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THEY CAN BEND THE BALL AROUND A WALL



MAYBE, BUT PLAYERS WHO BEND THE BALL DON'T WORRY ME



IT'S THE ONES WHO BLAST IT STRAIGHT AT YOU I CAN'T STAND!





The second part of a new series in which Shoot goes behind the scenes to examine specialist soccer jobs. This week **THE MANAGER ... JOHN BOND (Burnley)**

'I'm a changed man'

Kevin Reeves



I'm back in the Third Division now, after ten years at the top with Norwich and Manchester City.

But nothing has changed about my working routine and there are still not enough hours in the day to do all the things I would like. Whatever the level, football management is much the same.

Taking the job at Turf Moor meant I did not have to move from my home in Manchester. Neither did my assistant, John Benson, and we travel over to Burnley together every morning.

We arrive at the training ground at around 9.30 am and chat about the football news in the morning papers over a cup of tea.

The players start drifting in soon after ten o'clock and we check the fitness situation and whatever injuries we may have. Then I talk to the local Press, to give them a story for that day's paper, before going out to start training at 10.30.

And I have now gone back to square one by taking charge of all the coaching — as I used to at Bournemouth and in my early days at Norwich.

There are occasions when I want to work only with the first team squad and when that happens I send the rest off with Arthur Bellamy, a former Burnley player.

We train for a couple of hours, before coming in to deal with letters, phone calls and any other business that has cropped up. After that it's back to the main ground to see what sort of mail needs attention there.

I usually stay there until around 4.30 and was fully occupied in pre-season dealing with the

sort of transfer business that brought new players like Kevin Reeves, Roger Hansbury, Tommy Hutchison, Gerry Gow and Joe Gallagher to the club.

The close season actually gave me the luxury of a few evenings off and enabled me to attend some of the functions people are always inviting me to.

Please

It really can get out of hand and there is no way you can please all the people that want you, although I did the best I could until the season got under way.

Once that happened, football business took care of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. For I am invariably out watching a match somewhere to make sure I'm fully in touch with the situation.

It's vital to see how teams are operating, how new players are fitting in and how they may have changed their style. And you never know — you might just stumble across a player who might do you a turn!

Now I am under pressure from my wife, Janet — who wants to know when I can spare her

some of my time. I hear she is carrying a photo of me around, to remind her what I look like!

But having said that, I've got to admit that football is no longer nearly so important to me as it was.

In fact, after I resigned at Manchester City I could quite happily have lived without the game. I wouldn't have come back if I hadn't needed to earn a living.

I had six months to analyse my situation before being offered the Burnley job and now I'm a changed man. I'm no longer obsessed with my own image and I don't have personal ambitions.

But I do have ambitions for this club. Together we can get back to the First Division, but we've only got five years to do it in because I won't stay in football after 55.

Having spent my whole life with footballers, it's surprising how little they know about the game. I try to teach and improve them, but some just don't want to know.

I'm lucky to have some very good youngsters desperate to learn at Burnley, and to that end I'm working very hard to help them.

The only night of the week I never commit myself to anything is Friday. Ever since I started playing at West Ham I have kept that free — and I won't change it now.

I just hope the people I have to disappoint can understand how taxing the job is and how much time it takes up. Those trips to evening matches mean I often don't

get back home until the early hours of the morning — but I am still at the ground early the next day.

But I love every minute of it and would not change a thing — especially now. For I feel more relaxed since I joined Burnley.

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'I'm bubbling'

DEREK PARLANE

(Manchester City)

DEREK Parlane has hit the vintage years. In just a few weeks with Manchester City, he has fired home as many goals as he produced in two and a half seasons with Leeds. "It's ridiculous — but marvellous!" he says.

At 30 and with the last of his 12 Scottish caps back in 1977, he is at last proving a match-winner South of the border. "And that means a lot to me," admits Parlane, who joined Leeds in a £200,000 deal with Rangers.

"When I moved on a free transfer from Elland Road to join City, I knew that I had something to prove — to myself first and foremost. From the moment I arrived at Maine Road everything has gone as well for me as it went badly at Leeds.

"We always seemed to have battles to fight at Leeds. So often, it seemed to be a case of backs to the wall. Then in the season we were relegated from the First Division, I hardly played at all because of an ankle injury. I was branded a failure.

"Now I'm free from injury, at last hitting the form I expect of myself and with a club determined to climb back into the First Division. "I joined Leeds in March, 1980

and all I had at the top level was from then until the end of the season — because injury took a hand the following season.

"That means all I've done since leaving Scotland is taste the First Division in England. Now I'm hoping to make a meal of it! Promotion isn't something we talk about at City but, obviously, it is in the back of our minds."

Billy McNeill, who took over at City following last season's headlong tumble from the First Division, knew exactly what he was getting in the quick, fierce shooting Parlane... he played against him in direct confrontation.

"I was a young lad starting out in Rangers' first team; the 'boss' was a hugely experienced central defender in the last stages of his playing career at Celtic," recalls Parlane. "We had a couple of tremendous tussles.

"We joke about it now but, until we came together again this

season, we had only known each other as rivals on the pitch. Now we seem very much on the same wavelength.

"I think that the manager deserves all the credit going for

taking one heck of a gamble. He was going back to first hand recollections in signing me; then he paired me with Jim Tolmie although we had never set eyes on each other before."

Tolmie, another Scot, had been playing in Belgium for a couple of years. Manager McNeill sensed that a Parlane-Tolmie spearhead would launch City into a campaign of instant recovery after last season's humiliations — and he has been proved dead right.

"We hit it off at once — we've both scored goals and we enjoy playing together in a successful side," sums up Parlane. "It has made an enormous difference to my fortunes and I'm playing with a lot more confidence in myself."



Parlane (second left) heads City's winner against his old club Leeds.

WASHOUTS TURNED WIZARDS



STEVE Coppell, says his Old Trafford replacement Arthur Graham, was: "A Manchester United legend. Another Charlton, Law or Best — there is no way that I can be his equal."

Maybe... but he is having a great shot at it!

Graham's first goal, against West Bromwich Albion, helped lift United to top spot in the First Division. His second, four days later, sealed United's first-leg victory against Bulgarian side Spartak Varna in the UEFA Cup.

"You can say that I've struck lucky," says the modest Graham who, like his former Leeds team-mate Derek Parlane, has found that a switch to Manchester has transformed his career. But, like all the top players, Graham has the attitude and ability to make his own luck.

This time a year ago, Old Trafford supporters would have said Coppell was impossible to replace. But the flying Scot of Elland Road has moved across the Pennines and done just that.

"Someone has to do the job. The chance has come my way and I'm giving it my best," adds Graham. His best is certainly proving good enough to satisfy manager Ron Atkinson.

"Playing before big crowds

again, being involved with a club chasing the top honours, back at the peak of the First Division — it is marvellous after the lean spell at Leeds," he says.

"If a player cannot produce something extra faced by that magic set of circumstances, then he can't play anywhere."

'Lucky strike'

ARTHUR GRAHAM

(Manchester Utd)

"Maybe it is early days yet, but there is the feeling at United that this could be our Championship season."

"It is not a question of me slotting in with two or three players and then creating a successful little group. It is a team effort through and through.

"Take that goal against Varna. It was Gary Bailey's long kick from

his area that set it going. Frank Stapleton steered the ball to me as I was cutting through and I took it on from there. It was a great thrill to slot it home."

This is Graham's first return into European competition since Leeds went out in the Second Round of the UEFA Cup in 1979-80. The heady heights of the top of the First Division also come in total contrast to his recent fortunes at Leeds.

"All that is very true," he agrees, "but I haven't got a harsh word to say about Leeds. They treated me superbly and are still a great club."

'Tremendous'

"Now I'm back in another team of tremendous players producing superb football."

"It works wonders for the confidence to settle in so quickly with the class of players filling every position at United. The move has been very good for me."

Arthur, with 250 Leeds appearances and almost 50 first team goals, won the last of his ten Scottish caps in 1981. Could his rejuvenated form bring him back into Jock Stein's fold?

"I don't think so. Frankly, it has never crossed my mind. Scotland are building a new squad for the next World Cup and I cannot imagine that I've got any chance of being included."

"I have no thoughts beyond being part of a Manchester United team chasing honours in the League, the Cups and in Europe. That's plenty to keep me going."

UNLUCKY BONNER

He's as good as Shilton



THE form of Celtic's athletic goalkeeper Pat Bonner is proving to be one of football's great mysteries this season...

Bonner has been so outstanding that Scottish soccer fans cannot understand why he is not the Republic of Ireland's No. 1. At the moment that coveted position is held by Notts County's Jim McDonagh, but the Parkhead star is staking a strong claim to take over.

"I made my full international debut two seasons ago," says Pat. "It wasn't one to remember, sadly. It was an end-of-season friendly in Poland and we lost 3-0."

"I've been involved in squads since then, but Jim has held down the first team place."

Celtic fans and players are baffled at the Republic of Ireland's decision to continue overlooking the brilliant Bonner. Team-mate Brian Whittaker says: "I've played with and against Pat, so I think I'm well qualified to talk about his merits."

"Quite simply, I rate him one of the best goalkeepers in Britain. I would place him right up there with Peter Shilton, Ray Clemence and anyone else you care to mention."

"The amazing thing about Pat is

his concentration. Obviously, Celtic do the bulk of attacking in most games and he isn't extended. Then, suddenly the other team can break away. In those circumstances, a 'keeper might not be blamed for being caught cold, but Pat is always there waiting to deal with the danger."

"Another feature of his play is his agility. His reflexes are superb and he seems to be able to stretch forever when he is going for high or low shots."

Incredible

"You should see the things he can do in training. Incredible!"

"I don't know an awful lot about Jim McDonagh, but he must be a fabulous goalkeeper to keep Pat out of the Republic of Ireland team."

The quietly-spoken Bonner makes no rash claims or promises, but he says: "It means so much for me to play for my country. We have so many good players and it's only a matter of time before we start to get the results our play certainly deserves."

"Jim McDonagh is a fine goalkeeper, but he knows I want that No. 1 position."

"But I realise I can take nothing for granted at Celtic. Peter Latchford is pushing me all the way for my place."

Bonner has pushed himself ahead of Englishman Latchford and, although there has been inconsistency in Celtic's results, he has been one of their most consistent performers.

Bonner has more than proved his ability at club level... now it's time to gatecrash the international limelight. Move over, Jim McDonagh!



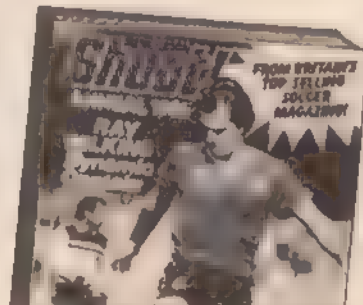
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They've broken the PAIN BARRIER



TONY REES of Birmingham City must get the prize for the most courageous breakthrough this season. He has become the shock package of the First Division after two

PAUL RIDEOUT, Aston Villa's teenage star, is driving himself to his physical limits. He is so determined to secure a regular first team spot that he finishes every training session on the brink of exhaustion.

The 19-year-old former England Youth international is rated one of football's most dazzling prospects. His £200,000 switch from Fourth Division Swindon to First Division Villa was one of the summer's most sensational transfers.

Now Paul is not going to be satisfied until he has proved himself to the hilt.

"I've had some encouraging moments, like my debut against Norwich; experienced a nightmare against Vitoria Guimaraes in the UEFA Cup; and been somewhere between those two extremes by playing well against Liverpool in the first-half at Anfield and then fading in the second.

"I'm training as hard as I can to make sure that I deliver. I scored goals in pre-season games and I'm hitting the target in Central League matches. I'm certain that I can do

years of pain and frustration.

Twice he has been forced to rebuild his career following broken legs, but now he has stepped into top football from a background of four Central League appearances for Aston Villa. Yet at one stage of his career, almost all he had left was his determination.

"I was not going to let my injuries beat me," he says. "Others may have been saying that I would never make it back ... but the thought never crossed my mind."

As Blues hit their finest early season form since arriving back in the First Division, the 19-year-old from Merthyr became the support partner for Mick Harford — although both Tony and manager Ron Saunders knew that he would struggle to last 90 minutes.

'Fitness'

"I find myself tiring towards the midway point of the second-half," he says. "It is taking time to regain the fitness level I need for 90 minutes of first team football but I'll get there in the end."

"I've beaten all my biggest problems over the past couple of years and I'll beat this one, too."

"I've waited long enough and worked hard for the chances I'm getting this season. Now I want to

the job in the First Division

"The truth is that I'm not a patient player. At the same time as I was talking to Liverpool during the close season, they were also negotiating with Charlie Nicholas. They already had Ian Rush and Kenny Dalglish up front — and that's before you take in players like Craig Johnston

"So I faced at least two years in the Central League side at Anfield and I was not prepared to go there and accept a back seat. I want to make it happen as soon as possible and that's why I joined Villa. The prospects here for me are far brighter — once I deliver first team goals."

Villa manager Tony Barton makes no secret of the fact that he sees the six foot West Country youngster as a successor to England centre-forward Peter Withe, and Rideout shrewdly assesses his future by stating.

"Peter is a fantastic player, but compared to Ian Rush, for instance, his time in top football is shorter. He has helped me immensely and given me lots of tips in training. His advice on how to shield the ball has been an education in itself."

Back home in Swindon, the club

take it on from there. Ron Saunders, who first signed me at Villa, has been fantastic. He has believed in me all the way."

Tony was bitterly disappointed with his final few weeks of last season at Villa Park. After battling his way back to fitness for the final two months he found he was only in contention for a place in the reserves. And he could only get into that team on four occasions.

"I was getting nowhere at Villa, so I asked for a transfer. Ron Saunders took me for the second time and said he was sure I'd make the grade — and to think about First Division football by Christmas. So it came as my best moment in football when he named me as substitute for the season's first game against West Ham."

From the moment that he came on, Tony has not let go. Despite the lack of total fitness, his running has opened up chances for Mick Harford — the front man whose goals last season snatched First Division survival for Blues.

"He is a tremendous player to work with," says Tony. "Mick is always going to score himself and make chances for others. Now that I've opened my own account as a First Division marksman, I hope that we can continue to get better and better."



that launched Paul is following his career with fascination. Manager Ken Beamish is convinced that the initial £200,000 will be followed by another fat payment from Villa when Paul goes on to win England caps.

"In his own time, Paul will win full international honours," predicts Beamish. "He is a dead ringer for Peter Withe, not only in looks but ability as well. There is nothing in the game that he cannot do or will not learn."

"Going from the Fourth Division to the First is a big jump but Paul will make it. He is lucky enough to have the ability that comes through at any level."

BIG MATCHES OF THE DAY

Saturday, 12th November

Aston Villa v Stoke

LAST SEASON Stoke took a hammering from Villa, losing 4-0 at Villa Park and 3-0 at home. Two seasons ago they allowed Villa to take the lead but ended up all square at 2-2. On Stoke's behalf it should be noted that last season's double was Villa's first over the Potters since 1947-48

Everton v Nottm Forest

FOREST have not won a League game at Goodison since the season they carried off the League Championship (1977-78). Then their 3-1 win was their first in six visits. Since then they have drawn two and lost three. Colin Todd's stay at Goodison was only brief but if he plays on Saturday he is one who will be anxious that Forest pull off a win.

Ipswich v Arsenal

AFTER a run of five League defeats at Portman Road, Arsenal have made a big improvement, with three wins and only one defeat in their last four visits. In October, 1982 Tony Woodcock earned the points by scoring the only goal in this game.

Southampton v WBA

AS last season drew to a close Southampton slipped down the table with three defeats in a row. One of these was at The Hawthorns, where a solitary goal by Derek Statham was enough to give the home side victory. Since Saints returned to the First Division in 1978 they have only managed one victory in ten games with Albion — a cracking 4-1 win at The Dell last December.

Spurs v Liverpool

WHEN these two met towards the end of last season Spurs were on a winning streak, but with the Championship already in the bag Liverpool had apparently eased off. Consequently Spurs won comfortably at home, with Steve Archibald getting both goals in a 2-0 victory. It should be added, however, that Liverpool have not won a League game at White Hart Lane since a 4-0 victory in December, 1975.

Aberdeen v Rangers

ABERDEEN'S improvement and Rangers' comparative decline is clearly illustrated in past results of these clashes at Pittodrie. Before the Premier Division was formed Rangers had not lost a League game there in ten visits. Since then, they have won only once in 16 Premier Division games. However, that win was only last season (2-1) so perhaps the tide is turning again?

Celtic v Motherwell

THE tally of goals for Celtic's last three League visits to Motherwell reads 11-0 to the visitors! The home supporters must want to see something like the fight Motherwell put up in April, 1979 when they came back from 3-1 down to lose by the odd goal in seven. Better still, a 2-1 win as they last achieved over Celtic at Fir Park in March, 1978 (Peter Marinello two goals).

TIPS FROM THE TOP

BY PAUL TREVILLION

BRYAN ROBSON — MAN. UTD. and ENGLAND

Midfield dynamo Bryan Robson's non-stop style of play is based on quick thinking, astute positioning and an ability to be always thinking one move ahead.

GARY
BAILEY

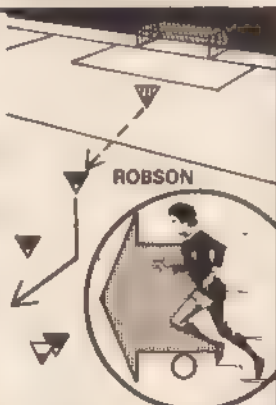
SHEEP DOG

Notice how Robson never gets too close to a forward who has his back to goal — he stands off a yard and watches. If the forward feints to go left Robson moves left — right he moves right. Robson keeps turning him off like a sheep dog turns a sheep, getting him to go the way he wants — forcing him away from goal.



RED FOR GO

When Robson drops back to pick up the ball thrown out by goalkeeper Gary Bailey, notice how quickly he moves off, taking the ball forward. Robson, when marked with intent to move, is never guilty of slowing the tempo, becoming over deliberate and allowing the opposition precious seconds to fall back in defence.



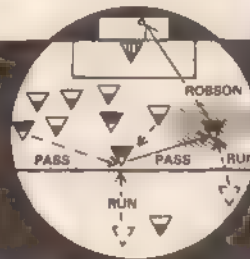
EXTRA SPACE

When Robson is marked by a player who likes to run at you, knock the ball past and run after it, he will back off a couple of yards and show the forward extra space in which he can move. Then Robson will feint to go into that space, stop, feint and then stop again. The forward, now in two minds, is stopped in his tracks.



SPACE WATCHER

When a gap suddenly appears in the opposition's defence it's a player's natural instinct to run into the gap causing defenders to follow. Now the open space no longer exists and nothing has been achieved. Robson stays out of the open space until his team are ready to use it, then, with a late run, he arrives to collect the pass and capitalise on the free space.



LONG-striding Billy Stark could never be mistaken for Gordon Strachan. They are the little and large of the Pittodrie outfit. But Stark will almost certainly be asked to become Aberdeen's 'Strachan' in the coming season.

Dons manager Alex Ferguson is just about resigned to losing Scottish international Strachan at the end of the season when his contract expires.

His virtually inevitable departure from Aberdeen will leave an enormous gap in the middle of the park, but Ferguson believes Stark, bought from St. Mirren at the end of last season for a bargain £80,000, could fit the role admirably.

'Quality'

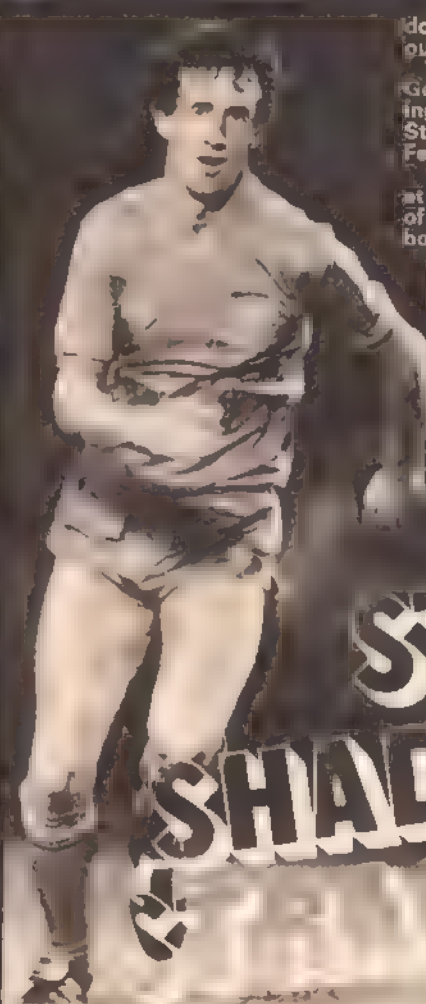
"Billy Stark is a player of great quality and style," says Ferguson. "I wouldn't have bought him otherwise. I only want the best players at Pittodrie."

"He's an adaptable player, but is exceptionally strong on the right. He can score goals, too, and I know the best is yet to come from him."

"Obviously, I haven't given up hope of Gordon staying here, although it does look as though he will be moving on."

"You have to look to the future and plan ahead. There's no point in scrambling around at the last minute looking for a replacement."

Stark could be getting groomed for the Strachan role in the Aberdeen midfield and there is no



doubt he has the ability to carry out the task.

"I would prefer to play alongside Gordon Strachan rather than talking about replacing him," says Stark. "Anyway, that's up to Mr Ferguson."

"Personally, I'm just happy to be at Pittodrie. I was a great admirer of his style even before they bought me. In fact, I said so in Shoot even before they signed me. Maybe the boss saw the article!"

"My old club, St. Mirren, appear to be in the wars at the moment, but I hope they get their act together. They have far too many good players at Love Street to struggle."

"I've still got many friends

wish them all the very best. Unless, of course, they are playing against Aberdeen."

The international scene also appeals to Stark, who says: "I'm as ambitious as the next player and I want to get involved in that sphere. I know I'll do my best for Aberdeen and play consistently. I might get my chance."

"I've already played for the Under-21s and really enjoyed that experience. Anyway, I don't want to be the odd man out at Pittodrie."

"When there's an international coming up half this team seems to disappear. There's hardly anyone around to train with!"

Popular

Stark will not shirk at the task of taking over from the popular Strachan. He says: "I'll play anywhere Mr Ferguson tells me. He paid good money for me and deserves a good return."

"My immediate aim is to make this a successful season for Aberdeen and to repay Mr Ferguson for his faith in me."

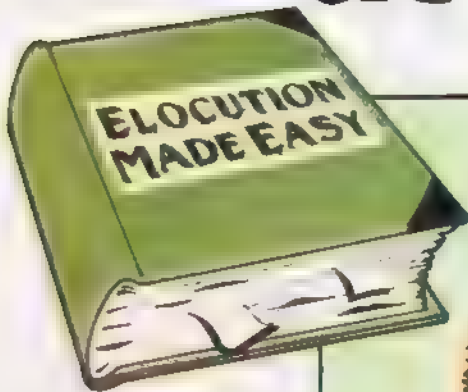
Stark has been tremendously effective since his transfer from St. Mirren and he says: "There are so many good players here. They have made it easy for me to settle in."

"I can't thank them enough. This really has turned out to be the perfect move for me."

It could be that Stark will be the man to make the Aberdeen fans forget all about Strachan if the flame-haired midfielder does eventually go across the border to further his football career.

STARK SHADOWS CHAN

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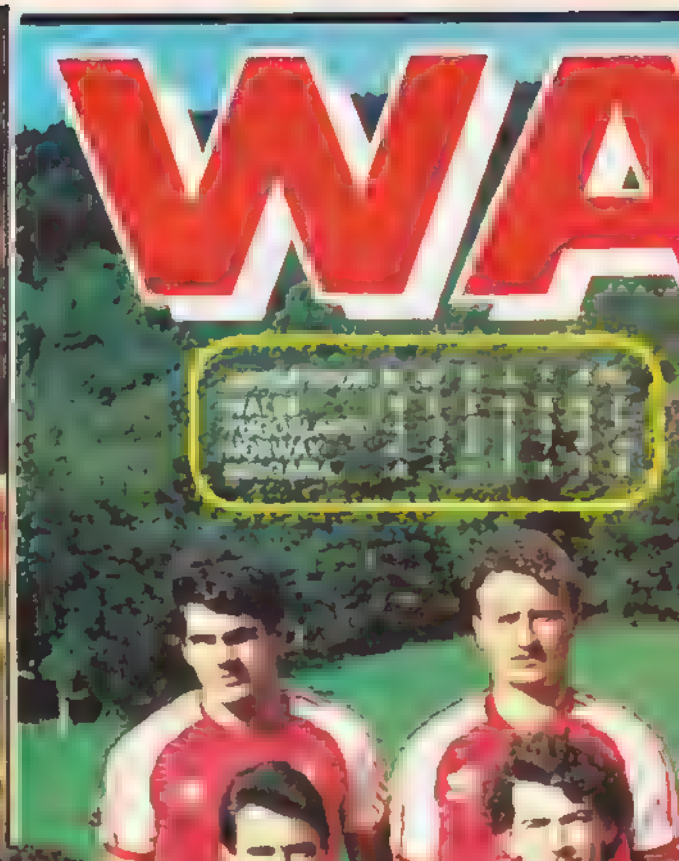
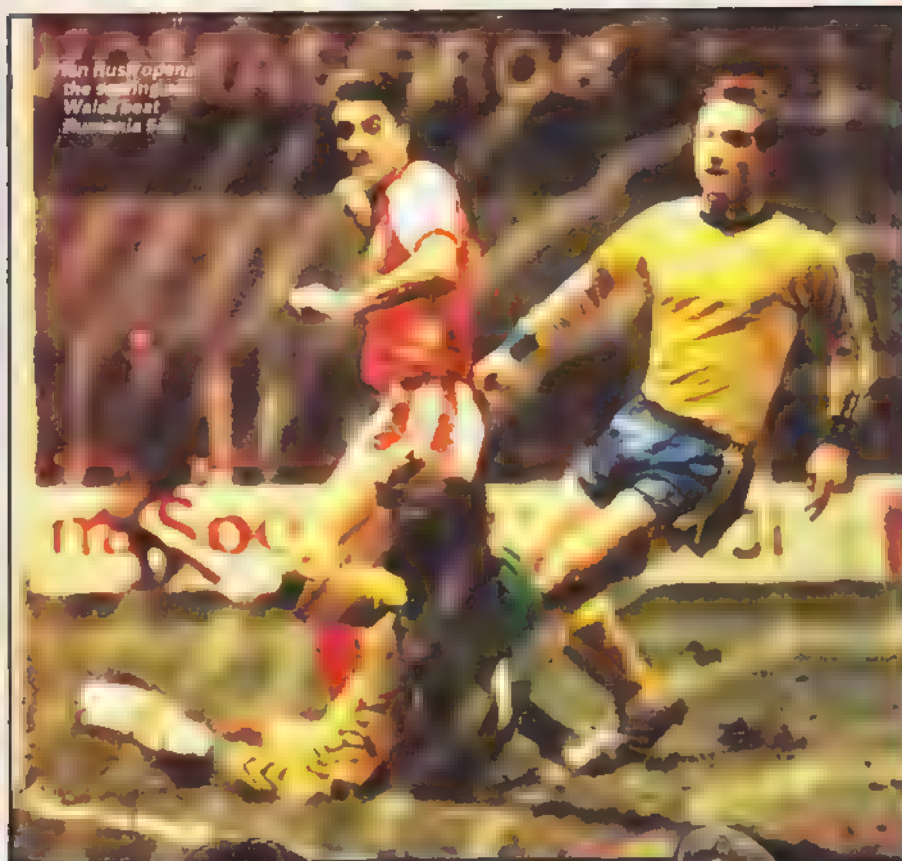


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Goalkeeper:	Wyn Jones
Defence:	Ian Tosh, Gareth Jones, Iwan Thomas, Gwyn Jones
Midfield:	John Toshack, Iwan Thomas, Gwyn Jones
Forward:	Iwan Thomas, Gwyn Jones

SHOOT!

WALES

Goalkeeper: Wyn Jones
 Defence: Ian Tosh, Gareth Jones, Iwan Roberts, Gwyn Jones
 Midfield: John Toshack, Iwan Roberts, Gwyn Jones
 Forward: Iwan Roberts, Gwyn Jones

SHOOT!



Rank	Country	Goals	Assists	Points
1	Wales	10	5	25
2	England	8	4	20
3	Scotland	6	3	15
4	Norway	5	2	12
5	Sweden	4	2	10
6	Finland	3	1	7
7	Denmark	2	1	5
8	France	1	0	2
9	Germany	0	0	0

SHOOT!

A MONTH away from his 32nd birthday, Mike Lyons knows exactly what he wants out of life.

Priority No. 1 is to be in at the rebirth of Sheffield Wednesday and play again on a First Division stage.

And ambition? "One day I'm going to be a successful manager," he retorts without a trace of hesitancy or immodesty.

Lyons is the hub of the Wednesday wheel which is threatening to roll away from the rest of the Second Division.

"It's been a very pleasing start, and yet we're greedy, we're disappointed at some of the points we've dropped.

"The lads all have the feeling that we haven't got it 100 per cent right in any match yet, and that we have a long way to go."

Pity the other 21 clubs if that's right! In their first 12 League games The Owls won nine and drew three, the last team in the League to lose.

Rumour has it that Wednesday's training routine under Howard Wilkinson would make Commandos wince, and Lyons confirms that he's never trained harder in his career.



"We are superbly prepared for every match. Towards the end of the week we concentrate more on set pieces and the opposition, because the boss and Peter Eustace have done their homework and plan accordingly.

"In this life you have to battle for everything you get, and that's how we approach every match.

"The boss has this saying that there's no such thing as

luck — you practice your luck — like Jack Nicklaus holing a chip shot — and I believe that he's right.

"We've got tremendous belief in ourselves and it would be great if we could envisage teams being frightened of coming to Hillsborough because they think we're all eight feet tall.

"When I came to Sheffield all the fans wanted to know was 'Can you go up?' and they must have been desperately disappointed last season when we missed out.

"We don't want to let them down again and having played so many seasons in the First Division for Everton I know how they feel.

"When you've tasted the big time you can never make do with anything less."

Lyons, whose managerial mentors have been Harry Catterick, Billy Bingham, Gordon Lee, Howard Kendall, Jack Charlton and now Wilkinson, says: "I've learnt something from every single one of them."

No wonder he's confident of his ability to succeed — after he's helped Sheffield Wednesday into the First Division.

THE LYONS ROAR

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Ex-Everton striker Joe Royle jumps to an old pal's defence

'KENDALL'S GOT IT RIGHT'

Howard Kendall is the man to make Everton great again! Who says so? Joe Royle, the former England centre-forward whose goals helped the club to lift their last League Championship, in 1970.

Kendall, one of the great midfield trio completed by Alan Ball and Colin Harvey, was also a part of that side and Royle, now manager of Oldham Athletic, believes his former team-mate is going about the monumental task in the right way.

Before recent Everton games, impatient fans have demanded Kendall's resignation. But Royle is convinced that despite recent poor form, Kendall is still the man to make Everton great again.

"But it will take time," says Royle. "Goodison Park is still haunted, and Howard and I are two of the ghosts!

"Our title-winning side was magnificent, to watch and to play in. The side played football through all the players, contained skill, flair and pace and men who

could score goals at home and away.

"It was a traditional Everton side — and that is the key factor to bringing the fans back to Goodison.

"But at the moment that 1970 side is the biggest cross Howard has to bear, as it was for Billy Bingham and Gordon Lee before him.

"Everton and Spurs have a lot in common when it comes to the way their fans expect them to play. It is simply not enough to win trophies, it is the way you win them that matters.

"I bet if Spurs changed their style and abandoned a great degree of their flair the fans would soon rebel. It would not be enough to point to a Cup and expect them

to cheer. They would object to the drop in football standards.

"Evertonians are the same — fussy and demanding. They want a team that flows and oozes class. Pace and power are not enough, even if they bring success."

So where did Everton go wrong in the first place? What happened to break up that famous side?

"The eventual sale of Alan Ball to Arsenal was the first big loss. But two games in four days broke the club's heart.

"Panathinaikos knocked us out of the 1971 European Cup on the away goals rule and Liverpool, of all sides, beat us 2-1 in the F.A. Cup Semi-Final. Alan Ball put us ahead, but Brian Labone pulled a hamstring and Liverpool poured through the hole left by his absence.

"Once ill-health forced Harry Catterick to resign as manager, the problems began.

"I believe Everton then made the mistake of trying to emulate Liverpool and it was never on. At that time Bill Shankly's Liverpool was a strong, powerful side, difficult to beat but not as attractive as the current Anfield team.

'Complained'

"That will never be the Everton game and the fans objected. Even when they led the First Division table in the March of 1975 and looked good bets for the title, the fans complained that they did not like the way the side played.

"It was amazing in a way because they got huge gates — usually around the 40,000 mark — but you sensed they were comparing the likes of Bob Latchford, Mike Bernard, Dave Clements, Roger Kenyon and David Lawson with the 1970 side and it created a lot of pressure on those lads.

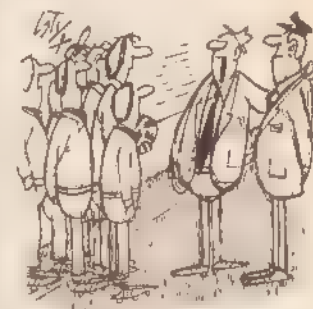
"Now I see Howard building a new Everton side and he is still watching the transfer market to strengthen his squad. But unlike Harry Catterick, who had the financial resources to make record-breaking signings when he wanted, Howard does not have that kind of money to spend.

"I believe the job will take a little time yet, but Howard Kendall was a first class footballer, a player who relied on skill and vision. He knows what the public want and he will restore Everton's pride "

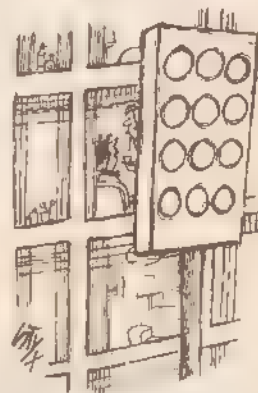
FOOTBALL FUNNIES



"Would you like to buy a rattle to go with that dummy I just sold you?"



"He's going to take you on a guided tour round the goalposts."



"Fred's always been jealous of you having a flat overlooking the football ground."



Kendall (left) and Royle (right) helped Everton overshadow Liverpool in the 1970 season at Goodison Park.

Nigel Spink



THE CONTEST

NIGEL Spink's appearance on the England substitutes' bench in Hungary and Gary Bailey's cross-country dash to play for the England Under-21 side sparked the suggestion that the Aston Villa goalkeeper had moved ahead of his Manchester United rival in the race to become Peter Shilton's successor.

Spink, who won his first full cap as a second-half substitute for Shilton in the third game of the summer Australian tour, is playing brilliantly and has not looked back since his spectacular performance — again as a sub — in the 1982 European Cup Final, when Villa beat Bayern Munich 1-0.

Bailey, 25 and just one day younger than Spink, has progressed rapidly and played a big part in United's climb to the top of the First Division table. And when he captained the Under-21s against Greece last November he seemed just a step away from that elusive first cap.

THE CONTESTANTS

Shoot asked former England goalkeeper Phil Parkes, of West Ham United, to assess the form and ability of both players and decide who he believes will take over Shilton's mantle.

"We are talking about two first-class goalkeepers," said Parkes (left). "Players with undoubted ability, consistency and character. But once we accept that fact we have to start making judgments on the basis of decimal points — because that's how small the differences will be."

"Gary is one of the best in the business. And he has become more consistent in the past two seasons. He has experience on his side and played in a number of major Wembley Finals."

"But I cannot help feeling that, like Mervyn Day, he may be

VITAL STATISTICS

NIGEL SPINK

Confident and reliable. No situation appears to give him real problems.

Excellent. For a big man he moves like lightning. Gets to the 'impossible'.

Strong. Can really belt a ball, from hands or from a dead situation.

Good. Gets in line with a lot of efforts through good judgment. Will improve.

Excellent. Again, can get his side going quickly with accurate kicks and throws.

GARY BAILEY

HANDLING

Confident and reliable. Only the occasional lapse. Happy with any type of shot.

8

8

ABILITY

Good. Gets around his goal quickly and is sharp to get to the ball, high or low.

9

8

KICKING

Strong. Gets height and distance on his kicks. Looks for good accuracy.

9

8

POSITIONING

First-rate. Experience on his side. Has had more games to work out his best angles.

8

9

DISTRIBUTION

Excellent. Can turn defence into attack with good kicks and very good throws.

9

9

Spink saves from Luther Blissett

v Gary Bailey

The great race to be
England's next
goalkeeper



Bailey foils Mike Robinson of Liverpool.

a player who exploded on to the scene quickly and young, then gradually slipped behind others when it came to fulfilling his whole potential.

Nigel, on the other hand, has played a lot of his football with Chelmsford outside the Football League. When his big chance came and Jimmy Rimmer was injured in the tenth minute of that European Cup Final, the lad came on in a cauldron of an atmosphere and did not put a foot wrong.

He has swept on from there, proving to be a 'keeper of tremendous potential.

Ironically he began his career at West Ham and could not break into the full side because Mervyn Day was first choice and playing brilliantly. Day's career dipped afterwards and he went to Orient.

Now... he is playing well in Villa's reserves, unable to displace Nigel Spink!

Gary has the experience and that is invaluable.

I've listed ten aspects of goalkeeping that I believe are very important and have marked both players out of ten. I did this without any pre-conceived notion of how the marks would total up. But I think the bear out my original judgment."

PHIL PARKES
VERDICT

NIGEL SPINK

Outstanding — he has a weight and width advantage to back him.

COURAGE

Unquestioned. Bold and brave when the boots are flying. Is unafraid to leave the line.

AERIAL STRENGTH

Good. Height on his side but with more experience will become even better.

Very good. Has the height to win balls and the eye to make good judgment.

PHYSIQUE

Superb. Bigger all round and can make his goal shrink as he comes out.

Good. Tall, well built and superbly fit. Puts it to the best use.

ORGANISATION

Very good. But once more will improve with every game at the top level.

Excellent. Has those games behind him and has learned. Talks to his defence well.

CONFIDENCE

Excellent. Really makes it clear he is boss in his box. Fears no situation.

Very good. Believes in his ability and can spread calm during stormy moments.

TOTALS:

86

GARY BAILEY

9

8

8

8

9

7

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9

8

86

83

THE
WINNER
-SPINK!



Straight shooting from JIMMY GREAVES

Write exclusively to: Jimmy Greaves, SHOOT, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS.
£10 for Star Letter, £4 others published. Overseas readers receive SHOOT T-shirts (please state size
medium or large). When writing please mention two features you liked best in the latest issue.

This week's Star Letter and £10 winner comes from SIMON KNOBBS of Chapel Street, Forsbrook in Staffs. He writes:

SEND FOR THE DOC

At a time when the game is sadly lacking in real characters, I feel it's about time some club gave Tommy Docherty another chance. Too many chairmen are frightened of this controversial character, but I'd love to see him back in League management.



So would I. He's already been offered the job at Bournemouth, which he might yet accept. But if he doesn't take that one I'm sure The Doc will be back with some League club or other before the end of the season. His old joke about having more clubs than Jack Nicklaus will then be true, because you're only allowed 14 clubs in a golf bag and Tommy's next appointment will be his 15th! I've got a lot of time for Tommy, and make no mistake, he's a very good boss. Unlike a lot of managers, all his mistakes are made in the open. He was telling me about his perjury trial at the Old Bailey. He reckons he pleaded guilty to the charges... but the judge wouldn't believe him!



Happier times for Tommy Docherty after helping Manchester United to win the F.A. Cup in 1977.

Under pressure

Do Liverpool and Manchester United players face extra pressure because they're automatically expected to win everything in sight? Was it a problem for you at Spurs?

GARY GORDON,
PENCKFORD PARK,
WOLVERHAMPTON

No. We knew we were good so we just took every game as it came. That's exactly the same with the present Liverpool team, although newcomers to their side may find it hard matching the high standards of their team-mates. United must feel the pressure much more, because they still haven't proved themselves to be a great team despite winning the F.A. Cup. That's why they're so keen to win the League this season and then have a crack at the European Cup.



Bubbling Blues

For the first time in years Birmingham fans have more to look forward to than just another battle for survival. Well done Ron Saunders — keep up the good work!

DAVID KNOWLES,
DROITWICH, WORCS.



It's taken Ron a bit longer than he thought to turn the club round, but now he feels he's got it right, and I agree with him. There's still a long way to go before Blues actually win anything, but Saunders is doing a fine job with some fine players. Lads like Mick Harford, Howard Gayle and Noel Blake (left) are all doing a lot better than people expected, and from a Midlands point of view it's smashing to see a Birmingham revival.

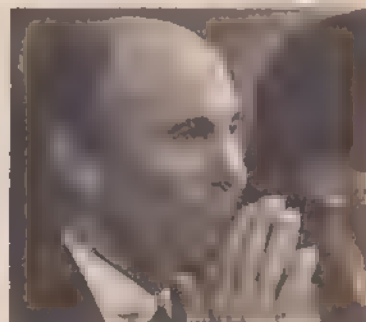
Sneaking in

Following Hungary's surprise defeat of Denmark, do you think England can now go on to qualify for next year's European Championship Finals?

LORD,
COLCHESTER, ESSEX



I have a sneaking feeling that Denmark might have blown their chance with that defeat in Budapest. Even now, I still can not believe that they lost. They had a perfectly good goal disallowed, dominated the entire game and then let in a goal which the keeper should be strung up for. Now they'll probably find the Greeks a great deal tougher to beat, while England should win in Luxembourg. I've a feeling we could be sneaking in at the back door once again, although in the long run it would probably do us better not to reach the Finals.



Melia's gripe

Brighton's sacking of Jimmy Melia was nothing short of disgraceful. After all he has done for the club, he has been treated very badly.

ROBERT GREEN,
SALFORD, LANCs.



On the face of it, I'd agree. But I don't know all the politics behind Jimmy's departure. Even so he took a very rosey side to within ten seconds of winning the F.A. Cup and earned them a lot of money in the process. He'd appear to have cause for complaint.

Liverpool
vs
Tottenham

Manchester United
vs
Aston Villa

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Angry Archie

Since his argument with Keith Burkinshaw, Steve Archibald has been playing better than he's ever done. Maybe the Spurs boss should upset his striker more often

MICHAEL CONDRON,
BALLICKMOYLER, IRELAND



Quite right. Keith should refuse to apologise, tell Archibald he's useless and threaten to sell him at the first chance. All Scotsmen are the same — they hate you to be nice to them. They're much happier when they've got something to prove to somebody.

Super Spink

The live coverage of the Wolves v Villa game highlighted once again that Nigel Spink is the second best 'keeper in the country. He's much better than any other contender for Peter Shilton's job

NICOLA JOHNSON,
POOLE, DORSET



I agree with Phil Parkes' verdict earlier in the magazine — Nigel just has the edge over Gary Bailey. And I'm proud to say that I was the man who set Nigel on the road to glory. I was playing in midfield for Chelmsford City when he was in goal, and I made sure he had plenty to do because I don't think I ever stopped an opponent going through for a shot! Believe it or not, we had two very good young 'keepers at Chelmsford, and Villa originally wanted the other — a lad called Nicky Penn. But Nicky didn't want to go, so Villa signed Nigel instead!



L.P. record

I hope Liverpool don't allow Phil Neal's incredible run of 417 successive games to pass by unrecognised. They should strike a special medal to mark the achievement

DAVID LOCKLEY,
MOSELEY, BIRMINGHAM



Next year Phil (above) has been granted a testimonial by the club and I'm sure his marvellous service to Liverpool will be suitably rewarded. The people I feel sorry for are the guys who play 417 successive games for Tranmere or Darlington without anyone taking a blind bit of notice.



Portugal's pearl

When asked to name their all time XI, very few players include the name of that legendary Portuguese star Eusebio. Did you ever play against him?

TREVOR JONES,
MIDDLESBROUGH



I've played both with him and against him on a number of occasions and would have to say he's one of the finest footballers of my particular generation. We met when he was playing for Benfica and for Portugal, and played together for a Rest of Europe team which took on a combined Scandinavian XI. And on top of that, we both played five-a-side soccer in Canada at the same time.

I'm a bigot

I've come to the conclusion that you are nothing more than an English bigot. I assume that when you say we should have a combined Great Britain team, it will be picked by an Englishman from players in the English League. And I'm sure you'd expect them to play in an English stadium in front of English fans. In fact, it's just an excuse to bolster a crumbling England team with great Scotsmen like Kenny Dalglish and Graeme Souness

MITCHELL STOKER,
DUNDONALD, AYSRSHIRE



Correct

Miracle buy

Manchester United couldn't have found a better replacement for Steve Coppell than Arthur Graham. He's taken the First Division by storm since signing from Leeds in the summer

JEREMY TILSON,
NUTHALL, NOTTS



Quite simply, Arthur Graham was a miracle buy. Ron Atkinson modestly claims it just proves what a great judge he is, but he secretly knows Arthur is doing better than anyone could possibly have dreamed of. At £45,000, there'll be no better signing for a very long time

Owls going up

Howard Wilkinson has made a magnificent start to his managerial career with Sheffield Wednesday. Can they now go on to win promotion or will they tail off once more?

ANDREW NASH,
BONSALL, DERBYSHIRE



Wednesday were extremely unlucky not to go up last season. I think they were distracted by their F.A. Cup run. Howard Wilkinson is a very good manager and an excellent coach. I'm sure he'll complete the good work started by Jack Charlton and Maurice Setters and take Wednesday back to the First Division

LAST season it was the wing wizardry of Stoke City's Mark Chamberlain and Watford's John Barnes which took the First Division by storm, and launched those two youngsters on the road to success and England recognition.

This season Norwich City fans believe they have a winger of their own who could follow an equally triumphant path.

Louie Donawa only made his Canon League debut at the beginning of October, but already he is being talked of in glowing terms

"Louie came into the side when we weren't having the best of fortune, and he's performed really well," says manager Ken Brown. "It's still early days yet, but if he continues to improve with every game, the way he's done so far, then he has a very bright future indeed

"Mind you, in Mike Channon he has a tremendous professional to help him along. There's not much Mike doesn't know about the game, and he's helping Louie whenever and wherever he can."

Defeat

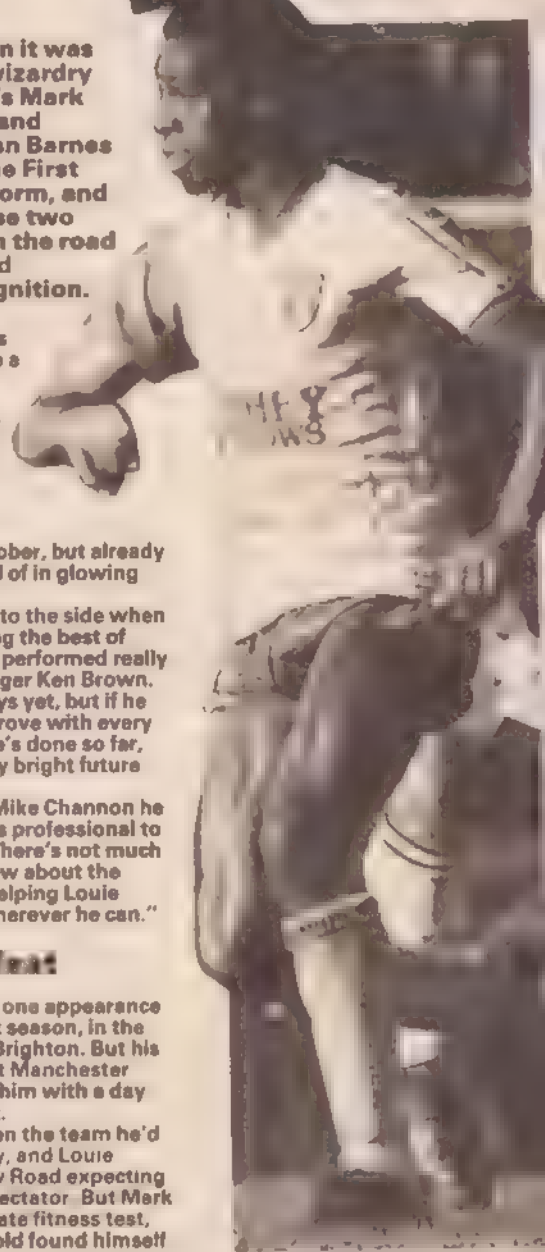
Donawa made one appearance as substitute last season, in the home defeat by Brighton. But his full debut against Manchester United provided him with a day he'll never forget.

United had been the team he'd followed as a boy, and Louie arrived at Carrow Road expecting simply to be a spectator. But Mark Barham failed a late fitness test, and the 19-year-old found himself being thrown in at the deep end.

"I didn't really have time to feel nervous, everything happened so quickly," says Donawa. And almost as quickly, United stormed to a 3-0 lead. But in a truly remarkable fightback it was left to the debut boy to score the equaliser in the final minute of the game.

"That goal sealed a tremendous day for me," says Louie. "Just to be out there with some of the biggest names in the game was fantastic. But to score a goal — and such an important one at that

LOUIE



— was just unbelievable. Now I just hope I'm still in the side when we play the return at Old Trafford in February."

Louie knows he still has a great deal to learn, and his manager is understandably wary of not allowing him to fall under the spotlight too soon.

But Ken Brown clearly feels the local lad who joined City straight from school could play a big part in establishing The Canaries as a genuine force in the First Division.

Quiz

Compiled by John Hamon



1 Study the action photograph (above), taken during England's 1981 World Cup qualifying game against Hungary at Wembley, and tell us what happened next?

2 John Toshack recently resigned as manager of Swansea City. (a) As a player, Tosh played for which three League clubs? (b) He was capped at full international level for Wales on 30, 40 or 50 occasions? (c) He took over at the Vetch Field in February, 1978 when The Swans were in which division?

3 Who captained the following sides to F.A. Cup Final victories — (a) Ipswich Town (1978), (b) Tottenham (1981 and 1982), (c) West Ham (1980) and (d) Manchester United (1977)?

4 Aston Villa's Andy Blair joined which other First Division club on a month's loan recently?

5 On Saturday, October 29th, two First Division strikers scored five goals each. Name the players and their opponents.



8 Willie Irvine (above), has been scoring regularly in the Scottish Premier Division this season for which club?

9 Which of these statements is wrong? (a) Jock Wallace was previously in charge of Rangers and Leicester City before becoming Motherwell manager. (b) Only First Division clubs are allowed to represent England in the European Cup competition. (c) Liverpool's Michael Robinson is a Northern Ireland international

10 Leicester City had to wait 11 League games before gaining their first victory. Who were their opponents, where was the game played and what was the result?

6 Capped by Scotland, while playing for Premier Division club Hibernian, in 1976 when he came on as a substitute against Switzerland. This talented midfield star was then transferred to a famous Midlands club for £275,000. Who is he?

7 Nottingham Forest's Kenny Swain (below), has played for two other League clubs during his career... name them.



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Rival team-mates

Have players from the same club ever captained opposing teams in an international?

GLYNN PEAKE, SOUTH AFRICA

● There may be more, Glynn, but I can only trace a couple of such instances.

In Cardiff, on 16th February, 1924, Wales (captained by Fred Keenor) beat Scotland (captained by Jim Blair) 2-0.

They were Cardiff team-mates — as were Noel Cantwell and Dennis Law at Manchester United when Eire beat Scotland 1-0 in Dublin on 9th June, 1963.

Clem's games

How many League games did Kevin Keegan, Emlyn Hughes, Ian Callaghan, Steve Heighway, and Ray Clemence play for Liverpool? **NWATCHUKWU MADUKWE, NIGERIA**

● A massive 2,145 all told. Nwachukwu — headed by Callaghan with a Liverpool club-record 640 League games (49 goals).

Next comes Hughes with 474 (35 goals), closely followed by Clemence with 470.

Then Heighway played 351 League games (49 goals), and Keegan 230 (68 goals).

Billy Wright

How many games did my favourite player, Billy Wright, play for Wolves and for England?

EDWIN MUSCAT, MALTA

● Wright made his Wolves debut in August, 1946.

He was a regular for the next 13 seasons until he retired in 1959 with a club record 491 League games (and three League Championship and an F.A. Cup-winners' medal) for Wolves. Wright also became the first Englishman to notch up a century of full caps — 105 in all.

SHORT PASSES

● Czechoslovakia won the 1980 Olympic soccer title, beating East Germany 1-0. Russia were third, and Yugoslavia fourth.

(JAMES WATSON, Wallasey)

● Darlington have had 18 managers since the end of World War Two.

(GARY EVANS, Manchester)

● Bristol City's record home gate is 43,335 (v. Preston; F.A. Cup Fifth Round, 16th February, 1935).

(TIMOTHY REVELL, Honiton)



all sport

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Bryan Robson
Captain of England and Manchester United says that the current England team is better than the one that played in the 1970s.

Charlie Nicholas
Arsenal's Scottish international striker says: "I don't want London's bright lights."

Ian Botham
One of the hardest hitters in cricket history says he wants England to be the best team in the world.

Keke Rosberg
1982 World Motor Racing Champion says: "When you brake you feel your seat belts are pushing the air out of your body."

Frank Bruno
Britain's heavyweight boxing hope with a superman body says he can win the World crown in the next three years.

Vince Hilaire
Crystal Palace's former Young England star says: "They tried to posh me."



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HIBERNIAN



CLUB SPOTLIGHT

HIBS assistant manager John Blackley has a unique problem — he has made a remarkable and unwanted comeback as a player at 35!

"And I desperately want manager Pat Stanton to drop me," says the former international sweeper. "I played in an emergency situation against Rangers at Ibrox this season and although we lost

1-0, I enjoyed myself.

"The following week we played Aberdeen and again I was asked to play. We won 2-1 against the European Cup Winners Cup holders and it was an interesting experience.

"But let's face it, I shouldn't be playing in the Hibs first team at all! We should have players in the reserves who are pushing the regulars for a first team place."

However, the courage of Blackley to make a senior comeback typifies the present spirit of the Easter Road lineup.

Pat Stanton is not a man of many words. He will never be mistaken for a Brian Clough or a Malcolm Allison, but

he is Hibs through and through and he says: "We dearly want to win a major trophy for our supporters."

"There's a revival in Edinburgh just now with both ourselves and Hearts in the Premier Division and we must build upon this."

"You've got to go back to 1972 for our last big triumph — the 2-1 League Cup Final victory over Celtic at Hampden. John and I played in that game. It's time our present day players and the emerging youngsters got in on the act."

Hibs have been unpredictable in recent seasons but Stanton and Blackley are working tremendously hard in giving the team back its reputation for

being one of the most entertaining in football.

"No one can look forward to playing at Easter Road these days," says Stanton and it would be a foolish man who would argue. Aberdeen supporters certainly wouldn't disagree after seeing their favourites fail in Edinburgh.

Stanton now has a solid backbone in his team. The much-criticised Alan Rough has recaptured his sparkling form in goal and former Celt Alan Sneddon is an adventurous right back. Ralph Callaghan adds experience with guile in midfield and Willie Irvine is beginning to knock in the goals up front.

And — dare we say it? — John Blackley looks as accomplished as anyone in

his back four role.

"But the sooner I get out of the team, the better it will be," he says.

BACK ROW (left to right) Alan Sneddon, Ralph Callaghan, Alan Rough, Robin Rae, Willie Jamieson, Brian Rice.
MIDDLE ROW Tom McNiven (trainer), Erich Schaedler, Graham Harvey, Alistair Brazil, Willie Irvine, Peter Welsh, Garry Murray, Pat McCurdy, Stuart Turnbull.

FRONT ROW Pat Stanton (manager), Arthur Duncan, Robert Thomson, Mike Conroy, Jackie McNamara, Kevin McKee, Paul Kane, Gordon Rae, John Blackley (asst. manager).

WAYNE CLARKE
Wolves



SHOOT!

Flashback MAGIC MARVELLOUS MULLERS



Date: May 17, 1972
Match: UEFA Cup Final
Spurs 1 Wolves
Venue: White Hart Lane

Jubilant Tottenham players chair captain Alan Mullery following a 3-2 aggregate victory in the only all-British European Final. And it was fitting that Mullery should score the most important goal in the second-leg at White Hart Lane after Martin Chivers

had netted both Spurs goals in a 2-1 win at Molineux a fortnight earlier. Jim McCalliog had scored for Wolves in the first game and Dave Wagstaffe was their man on target in the 1-1 draw. But ready for the battling men from the Midlands, it wasn't quite enough to deny Super Spurs their first European success since their Cup-Winners' Cup triumph in 1962-63.

SHOOT!

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BRADY SPARKS MANHUNT

LIAM Brady's determination to return to England once his Sampdoria contract expires at the end of this season has sparked a world wide search for a quality replacement.

The Genoa club, whose fortunes have been considerably enhanced since signing the gifted Irish international from Juventus, know that while Brady is sought by Arsenal, Manchester United and just about every League club with money and sense, their fans will demand a top-class midfield player to take his place.

I'm told that the fuming officials of SV Hamburg are already aware

of the identity of that player — their own West German international Felix Magath.

Magath, whose goal sank Juventus in the last European Cup Final and made Hamburg Champions of Europe, has been approached by Sampdoria.

I'm also assured that Magath (right), whose Hamburg contract expires at the end of the season, is keen on the idea



SCAPEGOAT

INTER Milan, once the Champions of Europe and Italy's pride, are going through one of the worst spells in their history, and there is no doubt that Hansi Muller is the scapegoat.

As the famous 'Blue and Blacks' struggle to escape from the bottom of the First Division table, just about everyone is passing the buck in the direction of the skilful West German international.

Just when you would think the players would pull together and support one another in a crisis, some have shown their true colours by slyly drawing daggers from toga sleeves.

Team mate Beccalossi, when informed that Muller (above) was attempting to put his finger on the team's problems, said: "Personally, I'm not in the least interested in what Muller has to say."

And World Cup hero Altobelli went one further when he chipped in: "Who is Muller?"



NUTTY NUGGET

LIFE continues to spiral downwards for Real Madrid's Dutch international Johnny Metgod whose poor form has made him the scapegoat for just about all current ills.

But even iron-willed Metgod must have been tempted to violence when his pet parrot added to his problems. The helpful bird refuses to learn how to say Real or Madrid and persists with squeaking Barcelona whenever anybody comes near.



GERRY'S A RIOT

GERRY Armstrong is finding life in Spanish football somewhat explosive.

The Northern Ireland international sat in the stand as his new club, Real Mallorca, took on Sevilla, a game that ended in a full-scale riot with the referee rushed off the pitch under protective riot shields and policemen injured by rocks thrown from the terraces.

Real's Luis Sotijar Stadium has been closed for one match as a result.

SALE TIME!

EUROPEAN clubs have all eyes turned towards Spain following the announcement by Real Sociedad that all their players are up for sale.

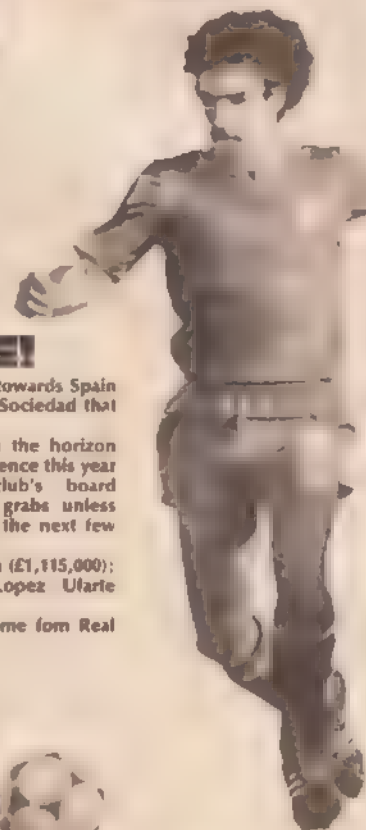
With an estimated £400,000 deficit on the horizon after last season's poor campaign and absence this year from European competition, the club's board announced that everyone was up for grabs unless alternative finance becomes available in the next few weeks.

So Spanish internationals Luis Arconada (£1,115,000); Jesus Zamora (right, £670,000) and Lopez Ufarte (£893,000) are on the market.

Expect the first offers, however, to come from Real Madrid and Barcelona.

HOUNDED!

ILYAS Tufekci, the 23-year-old Turkish international striker released by FC Schalke 04 to return to Turkey, was hounded out of the Bundesliga by National Socialist extremists. Yet the former Hertha Berlin and Stuttgart forward was actually born in Germany!



THE MIGHTY FALLEN

TSV Munich 1860, whose breathtaking attacking style made a classic of the 1965 European Cup-Winners' Cup Final against West Ham at Wembley, are now languishing in the Bavarian Amateur League!

The once mighty club, rivals to Bayern and once their betters, have nosedived towards oblivion in the past few years. And there is no realistic chance of regaining League status.

Former international Bernd Patzke, now a successful real-estate broker, has volunteered to coach the side ... free of charge.

ITALY'S VOW

BETTINO Craxi, President of Italy, has announced that the country will provide financial assistance if FIFA decides to hold the 1990 World Cup there.

Italy last hosted the competition in 1934 when they went on to beat Czechoslovakia 2-1 in the Final.



● Mexico, hosts for the 1986 World Cup, plan to hold a 'Mini-Mundial' in 1985 and will invite 16 sides from Europe, South America, Asia and Africa to take part. Nations with World Cup hopes ought to accept the opportunity to sample Mexican heat and the problems of playing at more than 8,000 feet above sea level.

● Roger Raven, Dutch-born striker for RWD Molenbeek of Belgium, is top scorer in the First Division with seven goals. Yet his club lie bottom of the table!

● Argentinian First Division leaders, Velez Sarsfield, claim they are being victimized after four of their players were sent-off during the 2-1 defeat by San Lorenzo.

● Rinus Michels, sacked by Cologne, has been appointed manager of Holland.

● Argentinos Juniors have agreed terms with Spanish club Sevilla for the transfer of striker Ricardo Alberto Gareca, the man whose goal gave Argentina their first victory over Brazil for 13 years. Gareca will receive 450,000 dollars and Juniors will get 700,000.

● Dynamo Berlin, East German Champions for the past five years, suffered their first League defeat since April 24, 1981, when Wisluta beat them 2-1 to end a marvellous run of 36 unbeaten games.



● Flamengo of Brazil are still suffering the loss of Zico. Sacking manager Carlos Alberto has done little to arrest their slide, highlighted by a 6-2 hammering at the hands of little-known Bangu.

● Pisa, bottom of the Italian First Division, have fired their coach Bruno Pace and appointed former boss Luis Vinicio ... the man sacked to make room for Pace!

● The match between Lazio and New York Cosmos to celebrate the retirement of Giorgio Chinaglia (above) was abandoned ten minutes from time with Lazio leading 3-1 because fans invaded the pitch to give their new chairman and former striker a 'shoulder-chair' around the stadium.

● Rivellino, the brilliant Brazilian World Cup international, is considering a playing comeback at 37 once his coaching contract in Saudi Arabia expires.

HUNGARY'S BRIBES SCANDAL

HUNGARIAN football entered the darkest night of its illustrious history as the verdicts were announced concerning the bribes and betting scandal that has left the nation numb with shock.

The organiser of the whole scandal was jailed for five years and fined £110,000, while 30 others involved were locked up for periods of between 18 months and five years.

Meanwhile the Hungarian F.A. has suspended 14 referees and no fewer than 260 players!

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A-V-A-L-A-N-C-H-E

SELDOM in recent years has the Second Division vied with its Division One rivals for goalscoring sensations.

Kevin Keegan is one who comes readily to mind, but he could be upstaged this season by several strikers — less well-known nationally.

The Second Division looks set for a goal avalanche and an indication of this came on October 1, when 53 goals flew in, at an average of almost five per game.

Chelsea's Kerry Dixon is the latest exciting prospect in the South. The blond striker scored 26 goals for Reading in Division Three last season, and his £175,000 transfer fee during the summer already seems a snip.

"When I signed, I told Ken Bates, our chairman, that I'd do very well to get 20 goals this season," reports 23-year-old Kerry.

"But after scoring 15 goals by the end of October, who knows? Mind you I'm not going to get carried away and expect a ridiculous number.

"We have an exciting system, using two wingers and, judging by our games so far this season, I'll have no shortage of chances."

'Bruises'

Dixon realises that his excellent start for Chelsea has made him a marked man. "The Second Division is certainly more physical and after scoring a few goals I've noticed that I'm getting more bruises!

"That won't deter my enthusiasm. Everybody at the club feels we have a great chance of promotion."

One club widely tipped to return to Division One next May are Manchester City.

Among those likely to help them back is Derek Parlane, the 30-year-old former Scotland and Rangers striker who joined City from Leeds during the summer.

After a serious ankle injury restricted him to a dozen games in two seasons, Derek is on the goalscoring trail again, and blasted his first Football League hat-trick



Chelsea's Kerry Dixon has been a handful for Second Division defenders.

recently against Blackburn.

"That was a big moment for me," says Derek. "I think it was my first hat-trick for about nine years. It was one of those games when everyone played tremendously."

He's scored another hat-trick in the Milk Cup against Torquay.

Derek is quick to emphasise that everyone at Maine Road is trying to play down the promotion talk.

"There is a long way to go," he insists. "Billy McNeill is repeatedly telling us to take one game at a time. In fact, the last thing he says to us before each match is 'This is the only game you have to win'."

Another two clubs with strikers to match their tradition are Sheffield Wednesday and Portsmouth.

Wednesday, who have just missed the promotion boat so often in recent seasons, will be looking to their new strike-partnership of Gary Bannister and Imre Varadi to provide those valuable goals.

Top Scorer

Bannister 23, has been Wednesday's top scorer for the past two seasons, scoring 21 and 20 goals, while Varadi hit 21 for Newcastle last season when he was the club's joint-top scorer with Keegan.

Varadi's £150,000 transfer to Wednesday during the summer means he returns to the city where he made his footballing name with neighbouring Sheffield United.

"Wednesday like Newcastle are a club with tremendous possibilities," enthuses Varadi, "and the team are giving 100 per cent in a bid to win promotion. We know it's going to be a real battle."

Portsmouth have potentially the most exciting striking pair in Division Two in Alan Biley and Mark Hateley.

Biley, "Pompey's" Rod Stewart lookalike, and Hateley, signed from Coventry for £190,000 during the close season, should strike up an understanding worth at least 30 goals this season.

Biley, who scored 23 times while helping Portsmouth to the Third Division Championship, says: "We

feel confident of going up again... as Champions! Our squad is very strong and Mark's arrival was a tremendous boost."

Elsewhere in the Second Division there are other gifted strikers.

Gordon Davies, the Welsh international striker whose 19 League goals last season were not quite enough to send Fulham into Division One, and Palace's Kevin Mabbitt, who, once he has recovered from knee ligament trouble, could be the men to push their clubs to success.

Yet another player who could surprise defenders this season is Huddersfield's 23-year-old Mark Lillis.

Last season a friend of his, a butcher, offered Mark a T-bone steak for every goal he scored. Lillis, who previously had scored only 13 in 88 games, suddenly found an appetite for goals and struck 19 during Huddersfield's successful promotion run.

"It started as a bit of a joke," recalls Mark. "But he always delivered the steaks the day after I had scored. Once last season I scored



Pompey's Mark Hateley — aiming for the First Division.

four in one match, and when he arrived I think he wanted to stay for lunch!"

The Manchester-born striker is just as hungry in front of the goal this season.

"We haven't been surprised at our encouraging start. Our manager Mick Buxton said we could have a good season after seeing our first few matches."

"Realistically, I think this will be a season of consolidation, and then we'll have a crack at promotion next season."

If Huddersfield succeed it would be a tribute to Mick Buxton, who has built his team on a shoe-string budget.

And the goal steaks?

"My friend hasn't mentioned anything about it this season," laughingly remarks Mark. "He's a Manchester City supporter you see, so perhaps the fact that we'll be playing against them might have something to do with it!"

NEXT WEEK

ONLY in Super Shoot!

Michael Robinson — A Liverpool Hit or Miss? The stars give their verdicts

EURO SPECIAL

UEFA Cup Third Round Preview + Aberdeen plan revenge in the Super Cup v. Hamburg.

IN COLOUR

Second Division Championship candidates
Newcastle United team group + Crystal Palace team group + Tony Galvin (Spurs) + Gary Rowell (Sunderland) + Danny Wallace (Southampton) + Focus on Alan Biley (Portsmouth).



Shoot Interview — Forest captain Ian Bowyer.

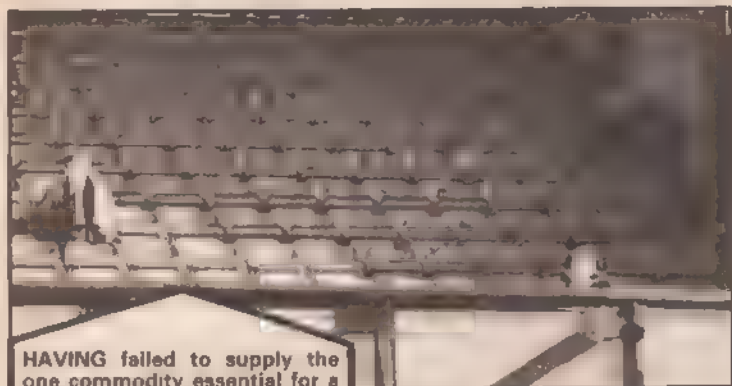
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Imre Varadi has continued to score goals after his transfer from Newcastle to Sheffield Wednesday.



HAVING failed to supply the one commodity essential for a Golden Goals lottery, Everton have turned their attention to a variation of the popular Spot The Ball competition. Called 'Spot The Fan', entrants are invited to pick out the enthusiastic spectator watching at Goodison Park these days. Winner receives a season ticket for Anfield.

Dons name the day

THE second-leg of Aberdeen's Super Cup match with SV Hamburg has been provisionally scheduled for Pittodrie on December 20. As the Bundesliga will then be enjoying its winter break, the only hiccup likely is the time the West Germans need to recover from their trip to Tokyo for the World Club Championship earlier in the month. The first leg has already been fixed for November 22.

SWEET F.A.

WOLVES and Bristol City, both suspended from the Football Association while they sorted out their financial difficulties, have been reinstated as full members.

Both clubs lost their status when they reconstituted under new names — Bristol City 1982 and Wolverhampton Wanderers 1982.

But new rules passed at the F.A.'s AGM say that all Football League clubs are now automatic members.

BOBBY MOORE and Bill Nicholson will be among the guests at a swaggy affair at a special Question Time session in a full Steve Perryman's Tavern at 10 on December 1st. Tickets for the night are £10 and include a buffet meal and wine. They cost £13.50 and are available from Tottenham Hotspur FC.

LINFIELD won Northern Ireland's first domestic trophy of 1983-84 when they defeated arch-rivals Glentoran in the Hennessy Gold Cup Final.



Thomas' troubles

MUCH TRAVELLED Welshman Mickey Thomas is unsettled at Stoke and could be on the move again. The 31-year-old man believes he is being made a scapegoat for recent poor performances. Although insists he is not a problem player, Thomas has had three clubs in as many years. Yet despite all these moves, he is still living in the same house in Llanwyn Bay.

Jocks in the dock

DUNDEE UNITED are threatening to take Premier Division rivals Hearts to court over £4,000 interest owed on the transfers of Willie Pettigrew and Derek Addison.

Hearts chairman Wallace Mercer said "We fully intend to meet our obligations, but the money simply isn't available at the moment."

"Dundee United are not our only creditors and we just ask for a little time and understanding to pay off our debts."

BY MARK IRWIN

ON THE MOVE

Martin Henderson	Chesterfield to Port Vale	Exchange
Bob Newton	Port Vale to Chesterfield	Exchange
Peter Nicholas (right)	Arsenal to C. Palace	Loan until June 1
Alan Walker	Telford to Lincoln	£28,000
Peter Bodek	Man. City to Seiko (HK)	Free
Mick Martin	Newcastle to Vancouver	Free
Chris Turner	Cambridge to Southend	£25,000
Stuart Pearce	Walsingham to Coventry	£25,000
Trevor Matthews	Sheff. Wed to Newport	Free



COVENTRY boss Bobby Gould predicts a bright future for young defender Ian Butterworth.

Says Gould, "He's as versatile as Gary Mabbutt and could one day be just as valuable to England."

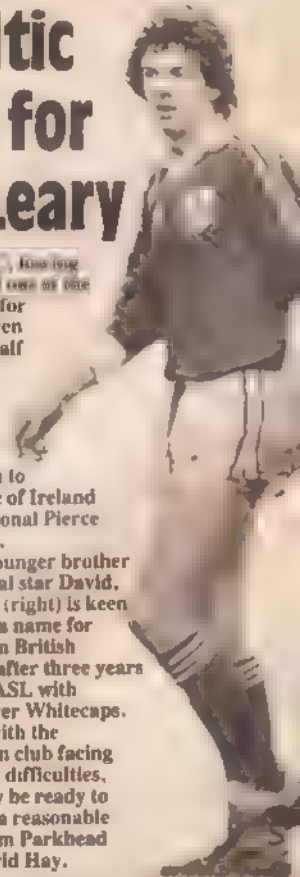
"He can become one of the best centre-halves in the country, but is good enough to play in a number of other positions."

Celtic go for O'Leary

CELTIC, who are dropping out of the bidding for St. Mirren centre-half Mark Fulton, have turned their attention to Republic of Ireland international Pierce O'Leary.

The younger brother of Arsenal star David, O'Leary (right) is keen to make a name for himself in British football after three years in the NASL with Vancouver Whitecaps.

And with the Canadian club facing financial difficulties, they may be ready to listen to a reasonable offer from Parkhead boss David Hay.



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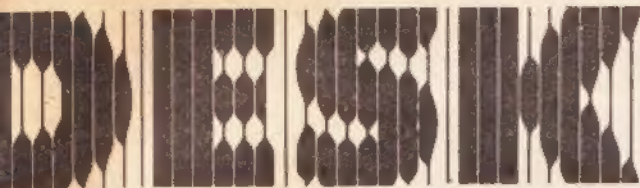
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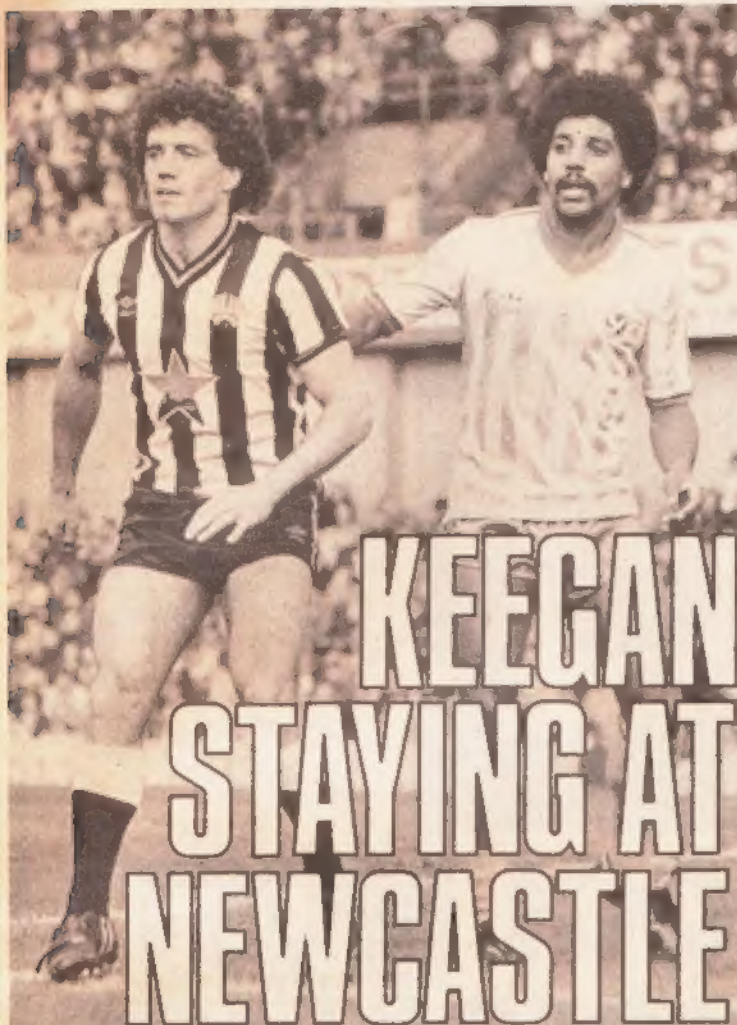


E.U.F.A 1983-84



Saints eye Dibble

FORMER Cardiff boss Jimmy Andrews was back at Ninian Park the other day in his latest capacity as Southampton talent scout. And his reports on City's 18-year-old 'keeper Andy Dibble may prompt Lawrie McMenemy to make a move for the young man also fancied by Watford.



KEVIN Keegan is definitely staying at Newcastle until the end of the season . . . and he may stay on for 1984-85 as well.

Keegan caused a sensation at the beginning of the season when it was revealed he could leave Newcastle at Christmas if they weren't challenging for promotion.

But now the former England skipper says: "I couldn't leave United at Christmas even if they were bottom of the League.

"I am not one to run away from battles and will stay here to fight it out to the end.

"When I came here a year and a half ago I said that I would help them back to the First Division, and I still stand by that statement.

"At the moment, I don't know what I'll be doing at the end of the season, but I wouldn't want to leave Newcastle if they were still in the Second Division.

"Helping them to promotion would ease my conscience if I go somewhere else next summer."

OOPS!

Someone at Tottenham has obviously fudged over their specially-made shirts to commemorate their appearance in this season's UEFA Cup. Spelling obviously isn't their strong point!

DESPITE St. Johnstone's terrible start to the season, goalkeeper Roy Baines has been unable to command a first team place following his close-season transfer from Morton. Now the big Englishman is deciding whether the time has come to call it a day.

READING fan Peter Bravey travelled to extraordinary lengths to watch his favourites beat Darlington 1-0 — 12,000 miles to be precise!

The 23-year-old made the long haul all the way from his home in Adelaide, Australia, to visit Elm Park for the first time since emigrating back in 1969.

To mark the occasion, Peter and his girlfriend Wendy Harrison were given free tickets for the game, souvenirs and also met the Reading players before the match.

'Good Guy' Gilbert

CRYSTAL PALACE manager Alan Mullery refuses to throw the book at bad boy Billy Gilbert despite the defender's appalling disciplinary record.

Gilbert amassed more than 40 disciplinary points last season and



has already suffered bookings and a sending-off this term.

But Mullery says: "I've never seen Billy go out of his way to foul people, and certainly not in a dirty way.

"There have probably been times when he's gone a little overboard, but even then it's not been malicious.

"He isn't married and maybe that's why he's still slightly immature. But Billy Gilbert is a very good player and nobody could convince me otherwise."

Did you know?

The late, great Billy Shankly was rejected by Bradford Park Avenue when he applied for their manager's job in February, 1953. A couple of months later, the same club released Joe Fagan after just three games. Fagan and Paisley, of course, went on to numerous League and Cup triumphs with Liverpool. And Bradford Park Avenue? They were kicked out of the League in 1970 and are now defunct!

IT HAPPENED THIS WEEK

Nov 12, 1931: Raich Carter (below), destined to become one of soccer's greatest inside-forwards, signs professional forms for Sunderland.



Nov 12, 1977: Alan Curtis scores a hat-trick in the last five minutes of Swansea City's 5-0 win against Crewe Alexandra.

Nov 13, 1945: Moscow Dynamo play the first of four famous matches in Britain — a 3-3 draw with Chelsea before an 82,000 Stamford Bridge crowd.

Nov 13, 1965: Jack Swindells scores five second-half goals for Altrincham v. Scarborough in an F.A. Cup-tie, the last four coming in the final six minutes and the last three, all headers, in the last three minutes!

Nov 14, 1959: Football League debut of Mike England (now Wales' team manager) for Blackburn Rovers v WBA.

Nov 14, 1969: Jimmy Sirrel is appointed manager of Notts County for the first time.

Nov 15, 1976: Bobby Moncur is appointed player-manager of Carlisle United.

Nov 16, 1971: Tommy Docherty is appointed full-time manager of Scotland's international team.

Nov 16, 1974: Notts County striker Ian Scanlon scores a hat-trick in two minutes and 45 seconds against Sheffield Wednesday.

Nov 16, 1977: Bury appoint Bob Stokoe as manager for the second time.

Nov 17, 1973: Kevin Keegan scores his first Football League hat-trick for Liverpool in a 4-2 win v Ipswich Town.

Nov 18, 1961: Jimmy Greave is transferred from AC Milan to Spurs for a British record fee of £99,999.

Nov 18, 1977: Bill McGarry is appointed manager of Newcastle United.

I'M convinced Liverpool's reign has become a bad thing for our football — and it's time it was brought to an end. Preferably by Spurs.

While it's been great for Liverpool followers to see their team continually taking the lion's share of honours, other fans have had to be content with seeing their clubs battle for second place, and many have lost interest.

But there's a feeling this season that Liverpool aren't going to have things all their own way. There are more contenders in the Championship race, and we at Spurs feel we're just getting into our stride.

We're all well aware that Saturday's game with Liverpool at White Hart Lane is a big hurdle. If we can clear it and win the three points, our chances of finishing first past the post next May will be improved.

Liverpool have set such a high standard, other teams tend to use them as a yardstick.

As someone who was playing Third Division football with Bristol Rovers only two years ago, I must confess I'm still in awe of them.

I don't actually pinch myself as I run out against that array of



Sammy Lee is such a tireless worker. He never stops running.

household names, but I still find it hard to come to terms with the amazing transformation in my life.

What most impresses me about Liverpool is how they can continue to play to the same devastating pattern, despite changes in the playing staff.

Full credit must go to the manager and his backroom boys for producing such consistency.

Liverpool play roughly 4-4-2, which can switch from defence to attack with frightening speed. One second they're putting up a wall in front of the goal, the next ten red shirts can form the most breathtaking assault force in our game.

Their players are masters at keeping possession, even under tremendous pressure.

Most attacks are built up from defence, with the back-four combining with midfield to get the ball through to the front two.



I expect that Craig Johnston will be putting me to the test once again at White Hart Lane this Saturday.

Up front, I expect to see Ian Rush and new signing Mick Robinson playing against us on Saturday, two players as different as chalk and cheese but developing a fine understanding.

Ian is the lean, hungry type who weaves round opponents and tends to stroke the ball into the net. His five goals against Luton the other week prove just how deadly he can be.

Mick is built to take a lot of physical punishment, and until his transfer — which surprised me — I'd regarded him as an old-fashioned, bustling centre-forward.

I didn't think he'd fit into the Liverpool frame-work, but all credit to Mick and the men who bought him, he's shaping up to become an established star at last.

From all I've said, you'd be forgiven for thinking I'm Liverpool's number one fan. But I could give Spurs an even bigger build-up. Because I believe that right now we've got a stronger all-round squad than Liverpool. More players with more skill!

This Saturday's game is not only a big test for us — but for Liverpool too!

Gary Mabbutt

LIVERPOOL MUST BE STOPPED!

'Hungry Reds' RAY CLEMENCE

HAVING spent so many years with Liverpool the club will always be special to me.

Naturally I'm keyed-up for Saturday's game because there's a lot at stake. The Liverpool lads won't treat me

with kid gloves and I won't be doing them any favours, either.

None of us at Spurs regards our 2-0 win against them on their last visit as a pointer to Saturday's result. Then they had won the Championship and were easing off. Now their blood is up and they're hungry fighters again.

This game is going to be so hard fought, we'll have just about enough strength left to lift our glasses when we get together in the players' lounge afterwards.



Rarely do Liverpool use the long ball, because of the risk of interception, but when they do it can rip a defence wide open.

The core of the Liverpool side is the back-four. Every team since the days of the great Bill Shankly has been built around it, and it's one of the reasons for the club's success.

I'm always surprised when Phil Neal is criticised. For me, he's a brilliant full-back with superb positioning, quick acceleration, and a fine reader of the game. The way he combines with midfielder Sammy Lee is great to watch.

On the other flank there's Alan Kennedy, very quick off the mark and with the knack of going solo and scoring great goals, like the one that won the European Cup in 1981.

Alan Hansen and Mark Lawrenson, the centre men, are almost football doubles, with the same build and the same skills. Both can play the ball out of defence, beat men on the run, and lay-off deadly passes.

You have to watch Alan carefully because he's likely to pop up when you least expect to score a surprise goal.

Liverpool's midfield has been boosted by Kenny Dalglish being pulled back from a striking role, and he's showing himself to be as good at goal-making as goal-taking.

Alongside him is Sammy Lee, who never stops running for 90 minutes, and packs a mighty shot. He's especially dangerous at dead-ball situations and running on to a pass, as the goal he scored against Hungary showed.

Older White Hart Lane fans will remember Graeme Souness as a Spurs player before he moved to Middlesbrough and then to Liverpool. I suspect they've seen a great improvement in him since those days. Graeme's everything a captain should be. He literally runs the Liverpool show.

Craig Johnston is another player who gives everything in a game, like Sammy Lee.

WANTED AGAIN!



DEREK JOHNSTONE, at 29, thought he had seen and done it all. A winning goal in a Cup Final against Celtic as a raw 16-year-old launched him on a career that was spectacularly successful.

He scored goals galore, picked up a European Cup-Winners' Cup medal 11 years ago, won every domestic honour Scotland had to offer as well as earning full international caps.

His career faded at Rangers and, at the start of the season, he took his talents to Chelsea for a mere £25,000. He sold his home in Largs, Ayrshire, and while he was making plans to take his wife Marion and daughters Donna, Heather and Judith to London he received the sensational news that he was wanted back home.

'Convince'

"Shocked? You can say that again," says Johnstone. "I could hardly believe it when manager John Neal told me Dundee United were interested in signing me on a month's loan. Now I want to convince them to sign me on a permanent deal."

"I was amazed. Dundee United were the team I supported as a kid. I was at Tannadice at every opportunity to see them playing. I never hid my admiration for them."

"I even trained with them when I was 13-years-old, but, for one reason or another, I didn't join them. Rangers came in, made me a great offer and I went to Ibrox."

"It sounds corny, I know, but I got a tingle

when I tried on that tangerine jersey."

"I'm getting my chance at United 14 years late, but I'm determined to make up for lost time."

Johnstone was painfully aware that a lot of so-called experts had written him off after last season. He failed to hold down a place at Rangers and the player who was once rated in the £500,000 bracket was allowed to move on from Ibrox for a fee that can only be described as peanuts.

"I've enjoyed it at Chelsea, although I didn't get into their first team," says Johnstone, who has shed a stone in weight since leaving Rangers.

He played three reserve games before his loan move to Tannadice, scoring one goal. He recalls: "That solitary effort came against Charlton, but it was slightly overshadowed by fellow Scot David Speedie, from Glenrothes."

'Future'

"We won 6-0 ... and he scored the other five. Keep your eye on that lad — he's certainly one for the future."

And Johnstone, too, is looking to the future. He underlines: "I'm delighted to feel wanted again and coming to Tannadice is just terrific."

"I'm out to prove I still have something to offer and I'm going to do my utmost to repay manager Jim McLean for his faith in me."

Johnstone realised he was going to Tannadice on trial, but the one-time Rangers pin-up boy is ready to accept the challenge.

"Dundee United are a fine side and they are worthy Champions of Scotland," he says. "There are so many good players here I'm sure my game is bound to benefit."

The combination of Johnstone and Davie Dodds could be the deadly double-act that United need to reclaim the Premier Division Championship. Certainly no team could afford to take it easy with these two players around.

Derek Johnstone is looking forward to this new and unexpected chapter in his career.

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Focus

HANS VAN BREUKELLEN

Nottingham Forest

FULL NAME: Johannes Franciscus van Breukelen
BIRTHPLACE AND BIRTHDATE: Utrecht in the Netherlands on October 4, 1956
HEIGHT AND WEIGHT: 6ft 2ins. 13st 7lbs.
MARRIED: Yes, to Karen. We don't have any children, but we do have a Giant Schnauzer dog called Pepper!
HOME: We're now happily settled in a detached house on the outskirts of Nottingham.
CAR: Fiat Strada.



FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS

PERSON: England cricketer Ian Botham. Whenever he is under pressure he always seems to produce the best results possible.

PREVIOUS CLUBS: I started in Holland with my local amateur side B.V.C. before joining Utrecht, from whom Forest signed me in the summer of 1982.

NICKNAME: The boss always calls me 'The Daft Dutchman' because he reckons I'm crazy. The rest of the team call me 'Herman' because of the time I suffered an abscess in my mouth. My face swelled out and they all reckoned I looked like Herman Munster!

FAVOURITE CURRENT

PLAYER: I don't have any particular favourites at the moment.

BOYHOOD HERO: The former PSV Eindhoven and Holland goalkeeper Jan van Beveren.

TEAM YOU SUPPORTED AS A BOY: F.C. Utrecht.

SUPERSTITIONS: I never shave a few days before a match.

MOST MEMORABLE

MATCH: In the first-leg of Utrecht's First Round UEFA Cup tie away to SV Hamburg. We won 1-0. Unfortunately, we were beaten 6-3 in the return leg in Holland!

BIGGEST

DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing the 1981-82 Dutch F.A. Cup Final against AZ67 Alkmaar.

INTERNATIONAL

HONOURS: Seven Dutch Under-21 caps and 11 full caps.

CLUB HONOURS: Three times qualified for Europe with Utrecht, Cup Final with Utrecht,

qualified for the UEFA Cup last season with Nottingham Forest.

FAVOURITE OTHER

SPORTS: Tennis, basketball and baseball.

HOBBIES: Reading, listening to music and walking with my dog Pepper.

FAVOURITE

SHOWBUSINESS STARS: My

favourite actor is Jack Nicholson and my favourite actress Louis de Funes. I also like the woman who plays Mrs Slocombe in Are You Being Served — is it Molly Sugden? I enjoy watching Kenny Everett and Tommy Cooper on TV as well as all sports programmes. Musically, I prefer easy listening. Fleetwood Mac are the group I listen to most.

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON

CAREER: The trainers at my previous clubs B.V.C. and Utrecht, who brought me through from my apprenticeship into the Dutch national team. And also Brian Clough, because he has given me a chance in the First Division and has 'changed' me into a kind of 'English' goalkeeper.

AMBITIONS FOR 1983-84:

To win something with Forest. The lads deserve it, because there is a great team atmosphere at the City Ground.

LONG-TERM AMBITIONS:

To settle down and establish myself as a good First Division goalie. I also want to play in a World Cup Final with Holland.